



NARUTO

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto **volume**

9



岸本 齊史

One day, after I bought a book for background research, I noticed it had a special feature on the artist Claude Monet. I actually have very little interest in paintings and painters, but ever since my student days, I loved the grand old man Monet—I went to exhibits of his work and owned several books of his paintings. I envy Monet

because, although in his later years he was virtually blind, he kept on painting right up until his death, and was able always to paint whatever he wanted. I would love to keep drawing whatever I want for the rest of my own life, too.

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2001

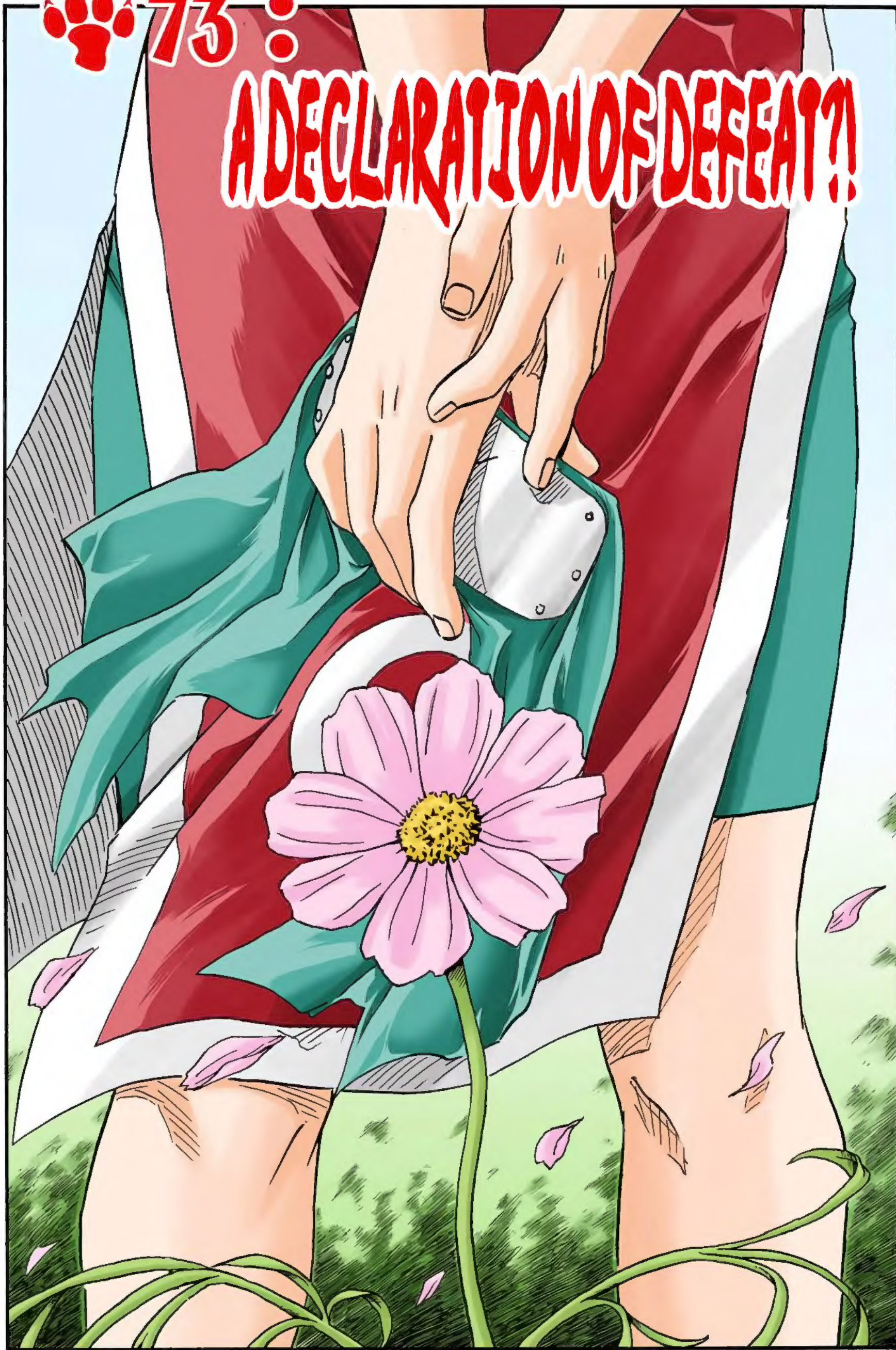
Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

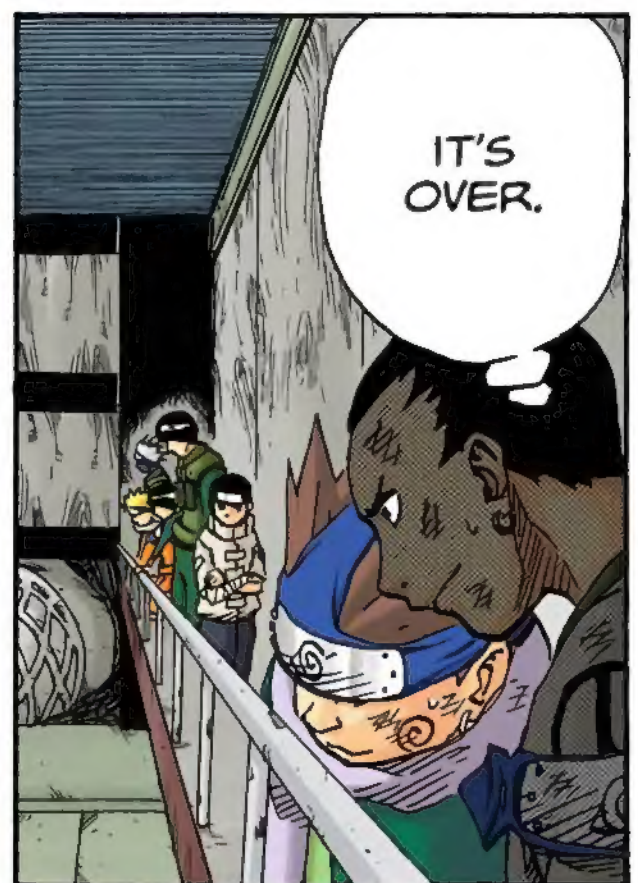
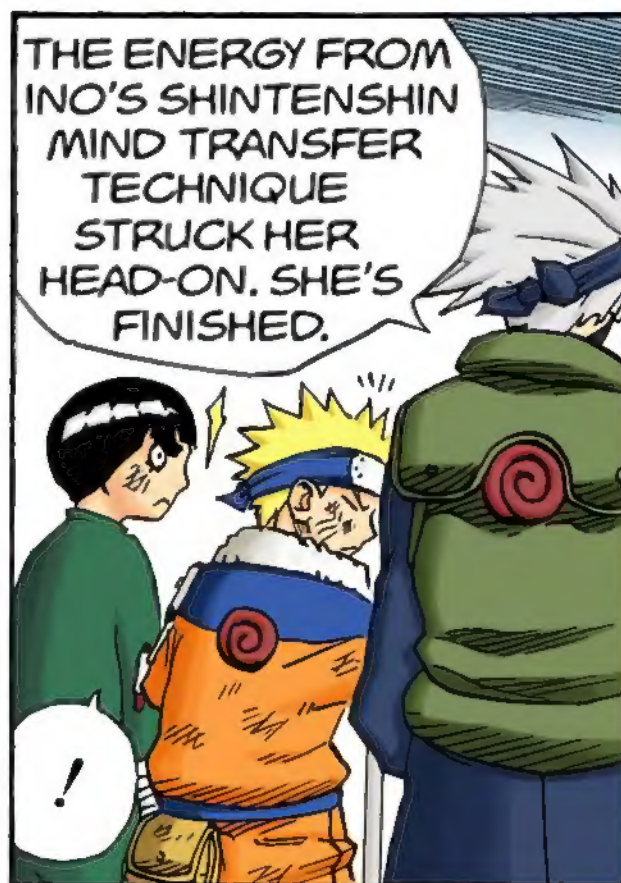
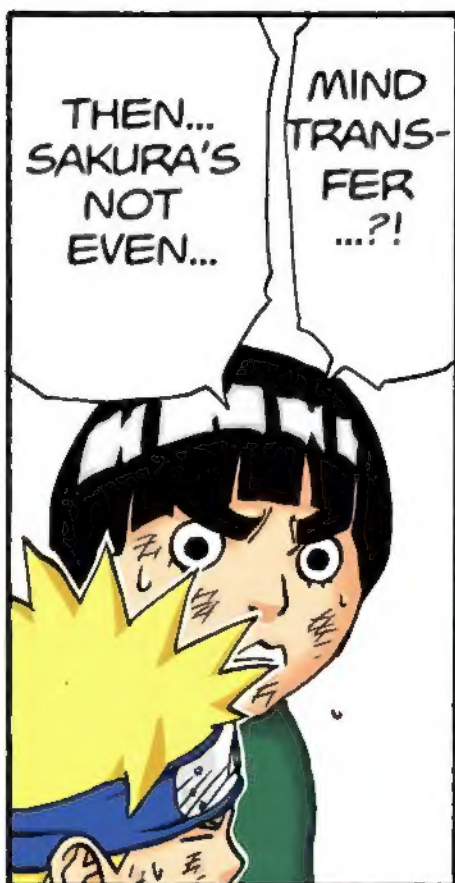
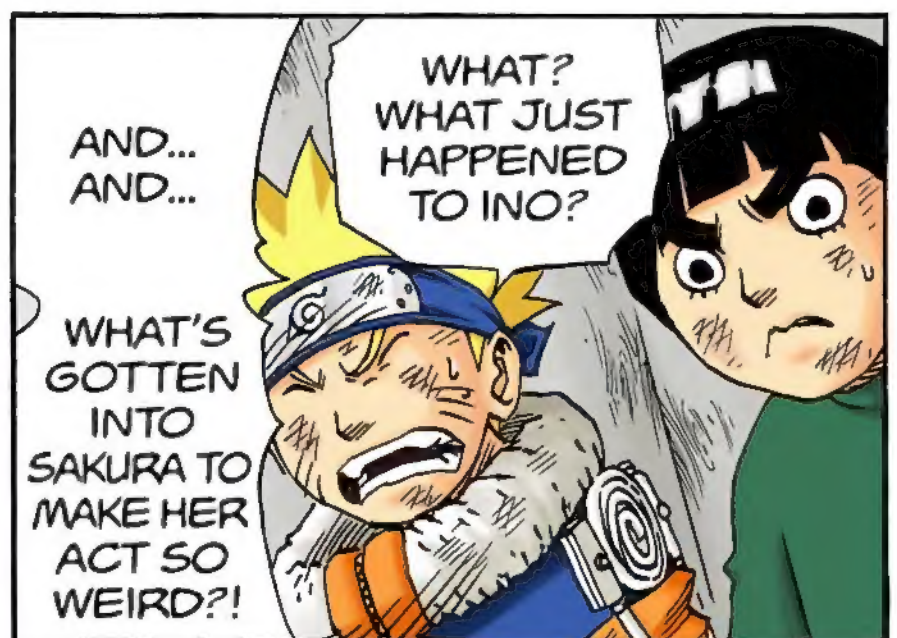
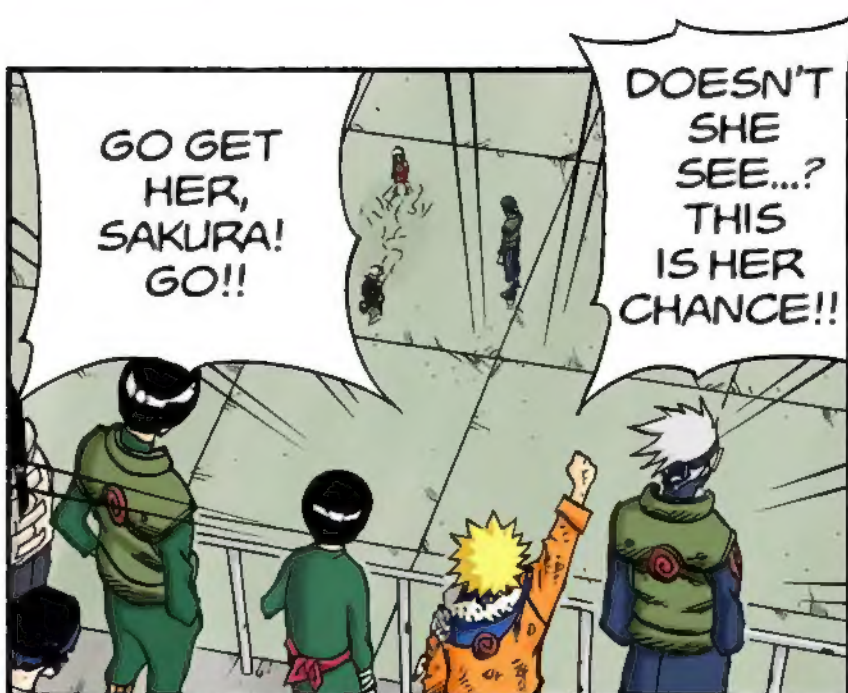


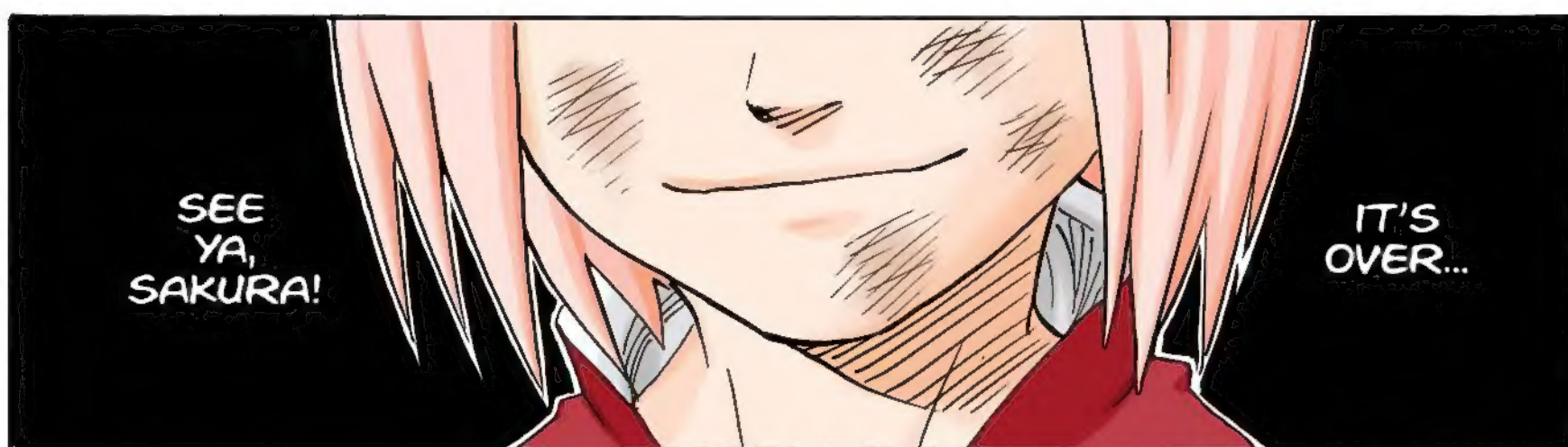
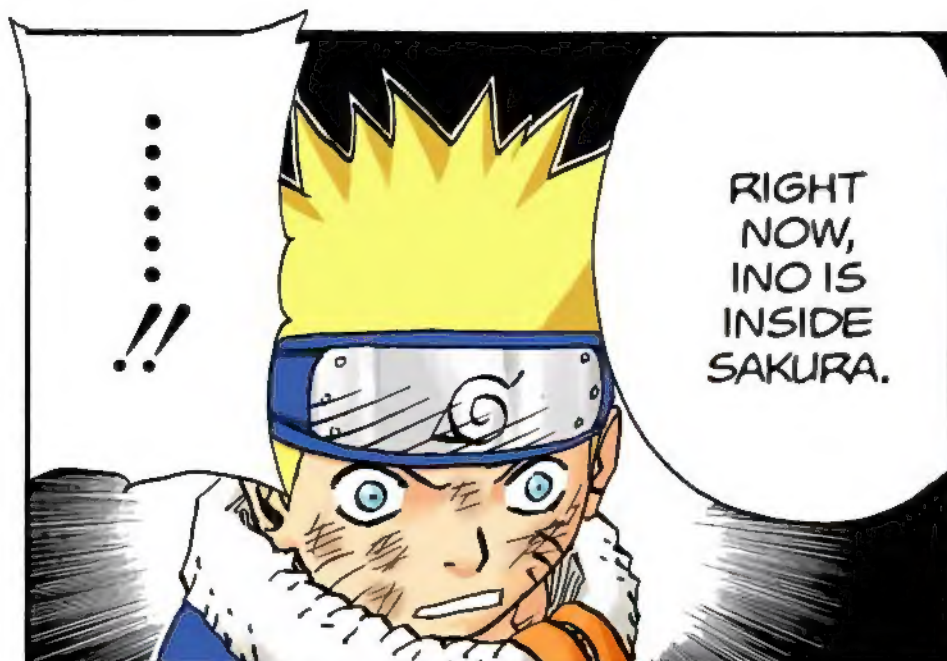


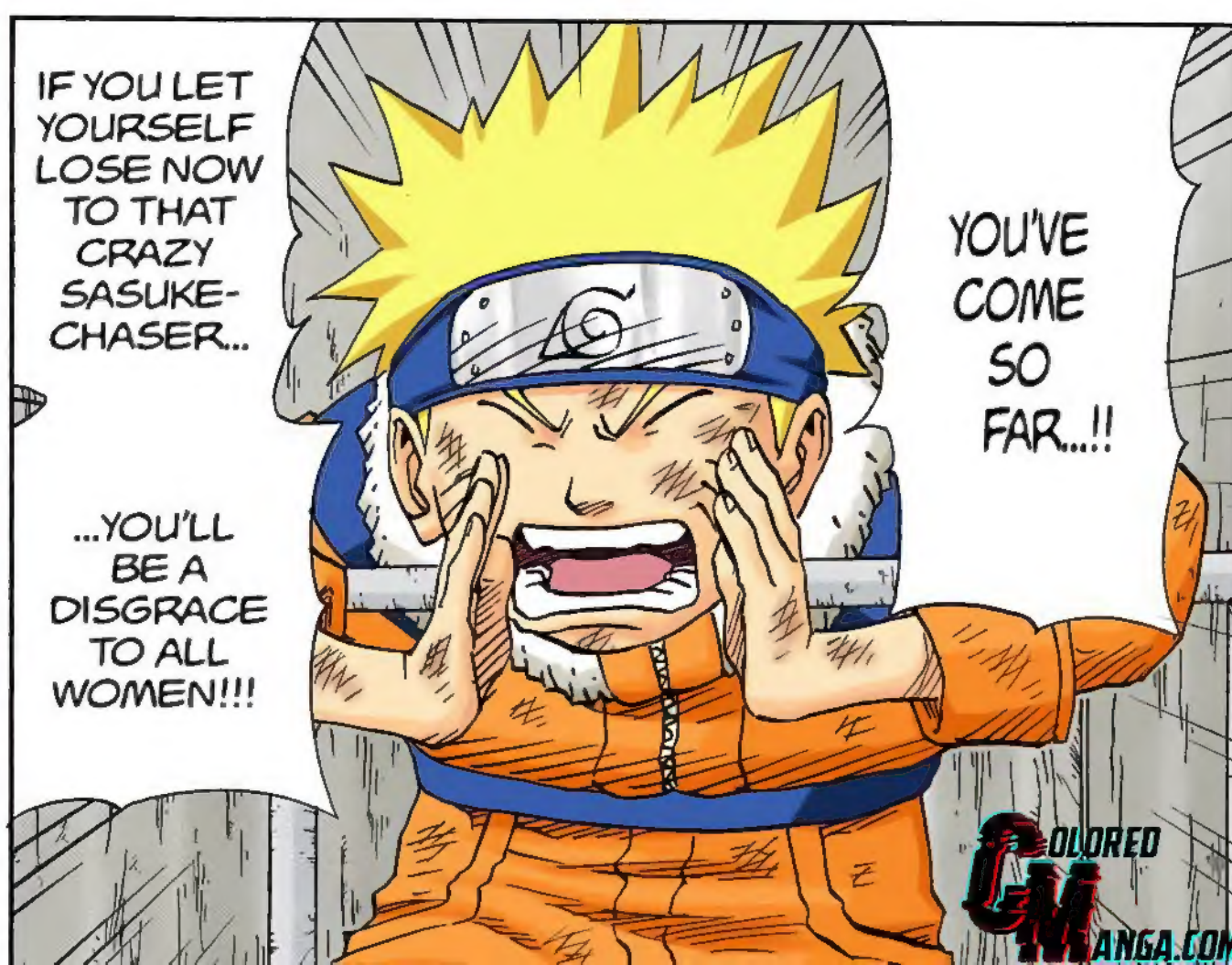
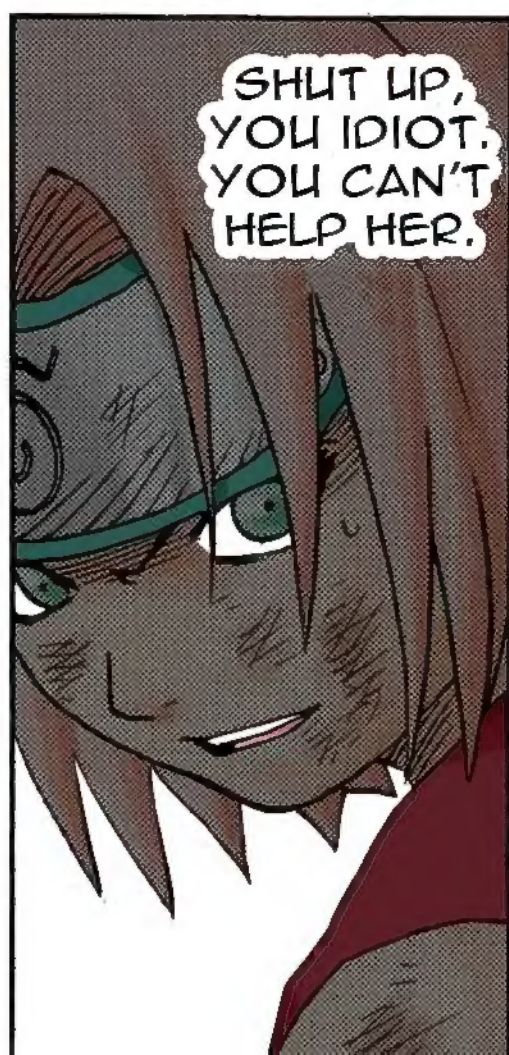
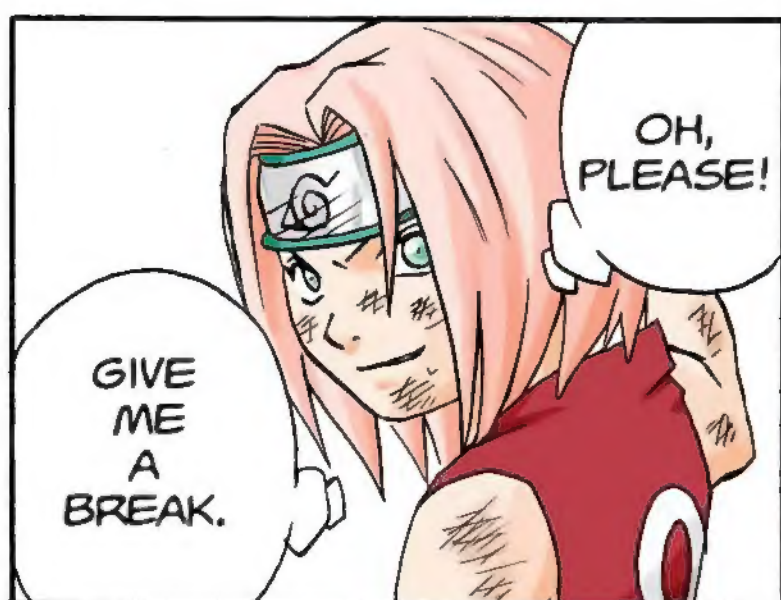
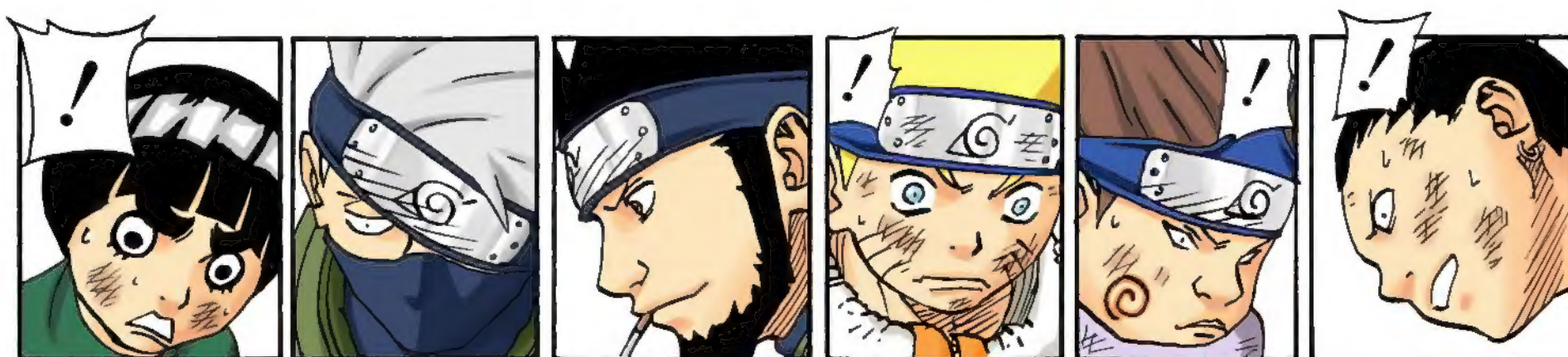
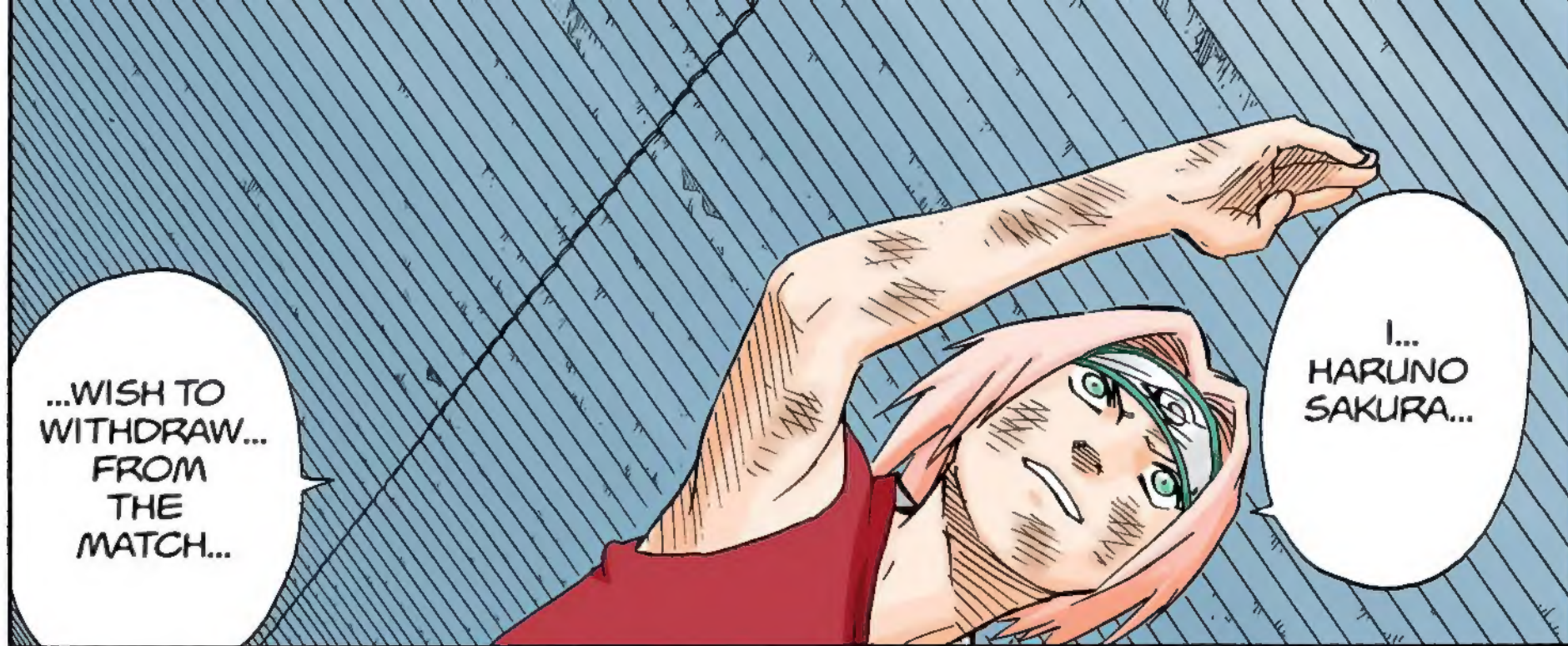
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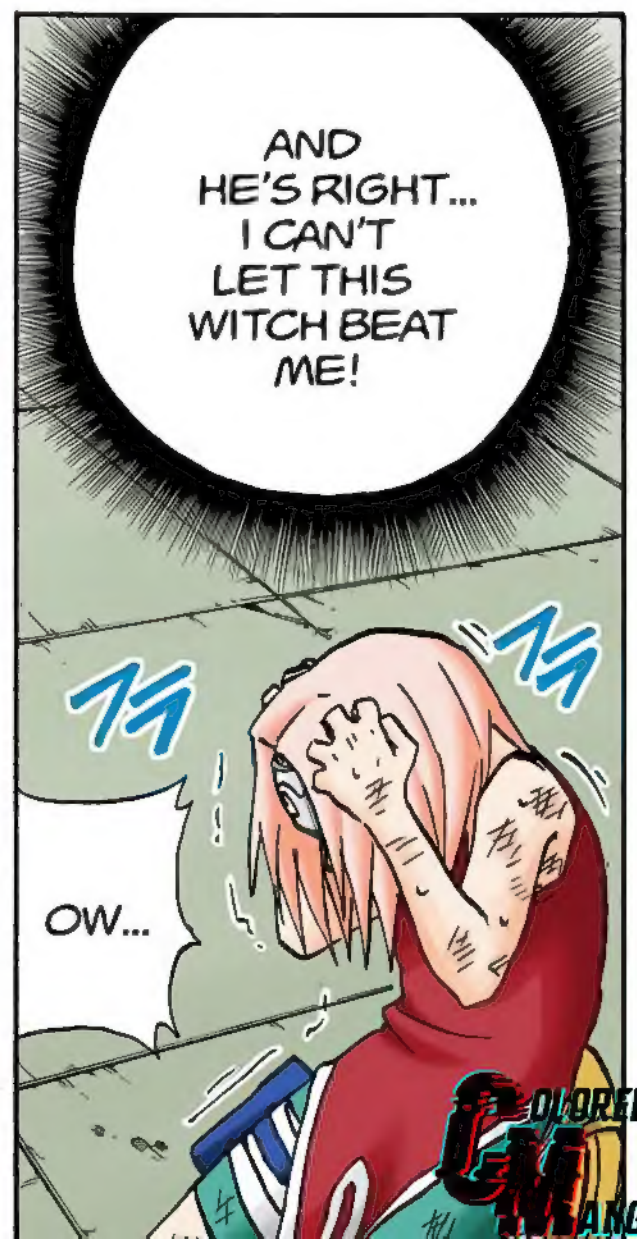
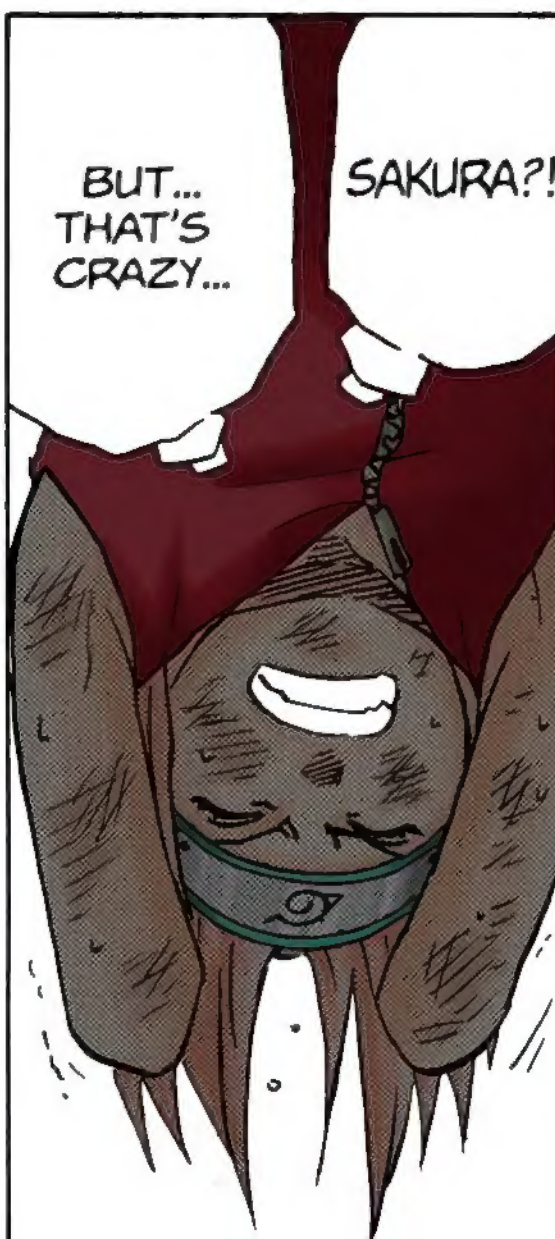
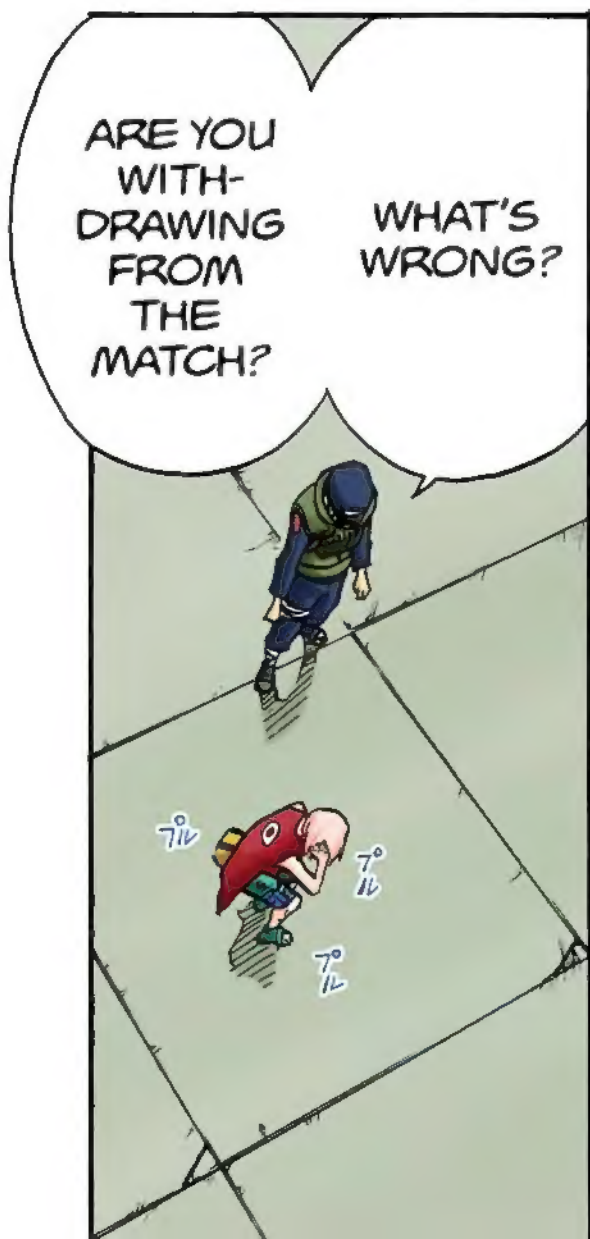
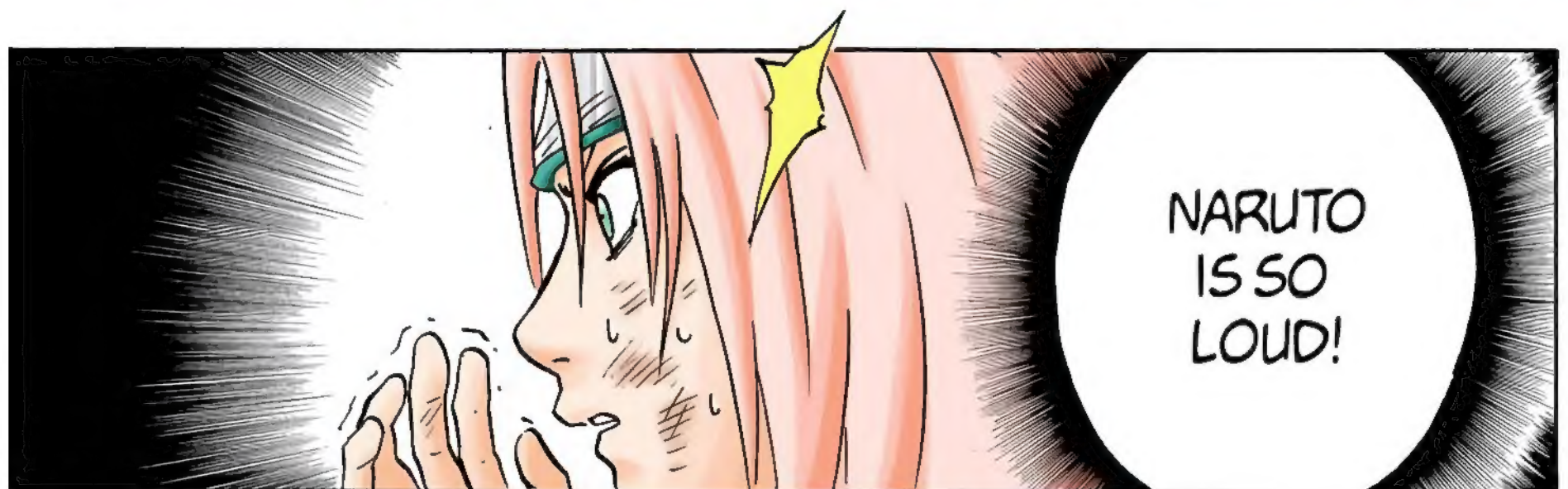
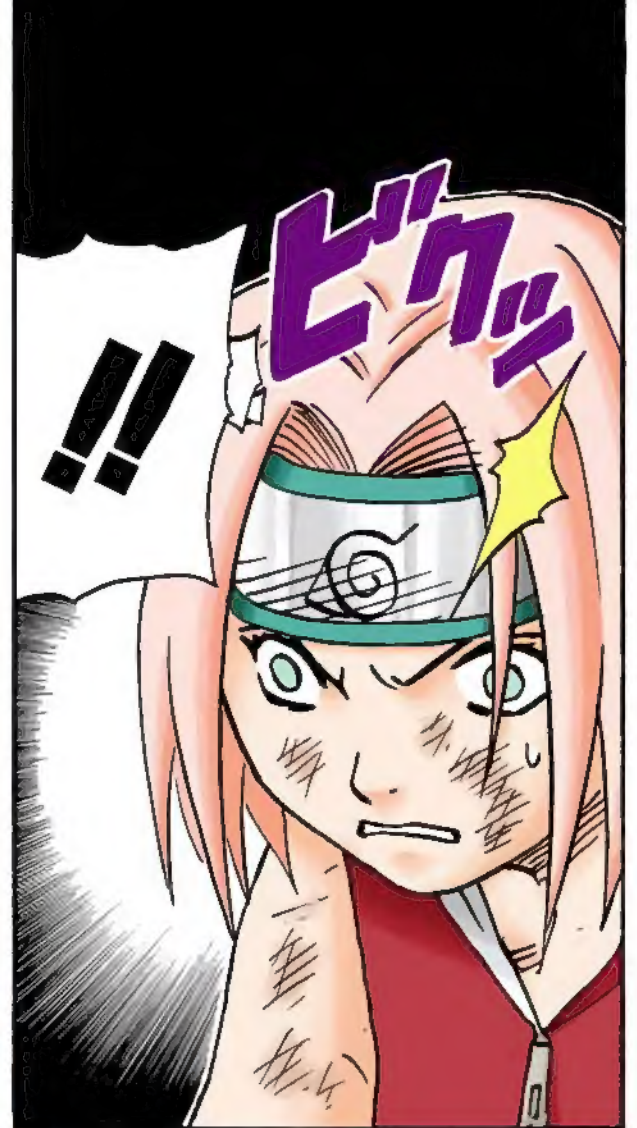
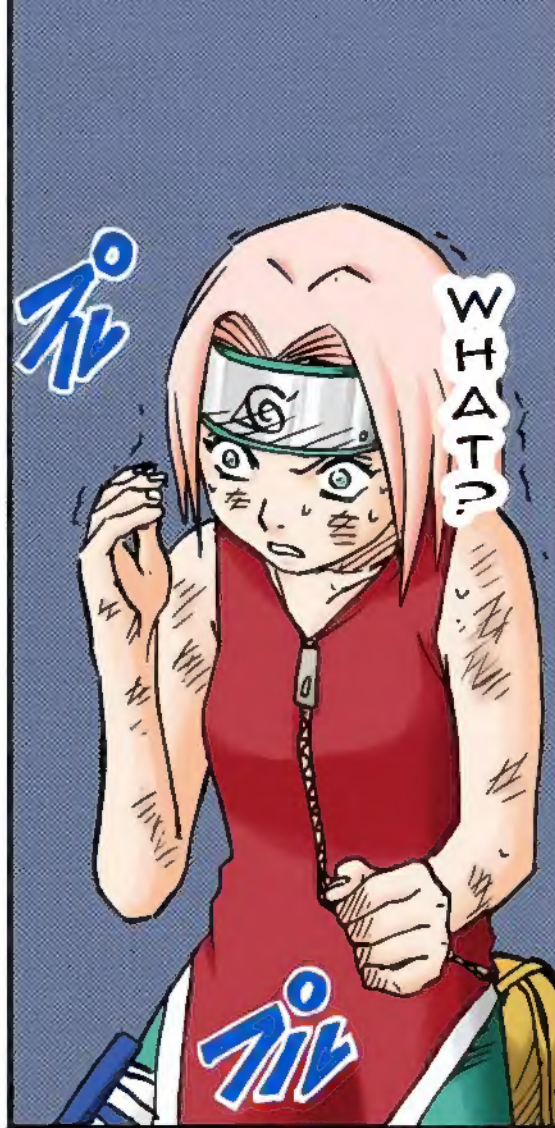
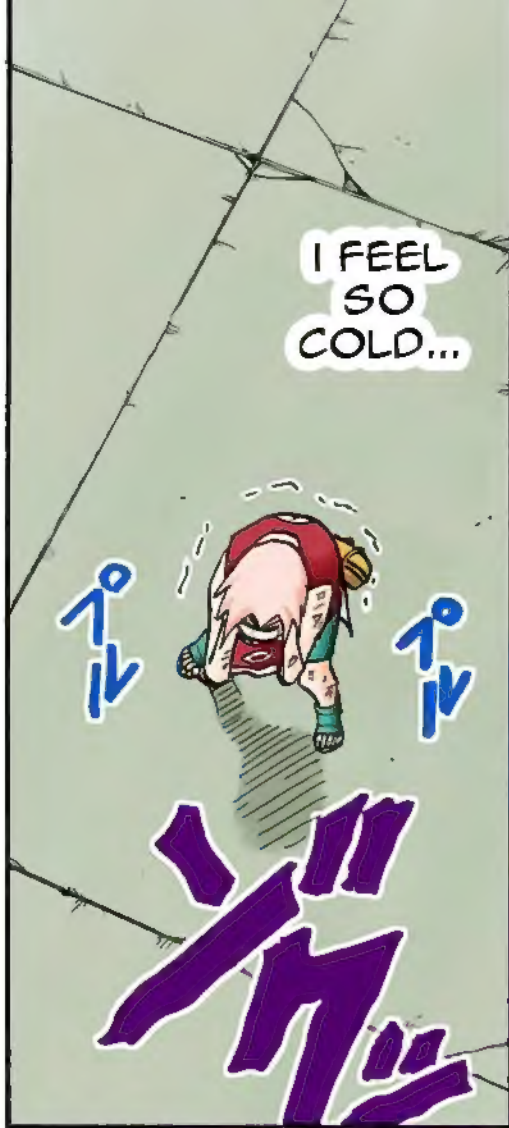
A DECLARATION OF DEFEAT?!

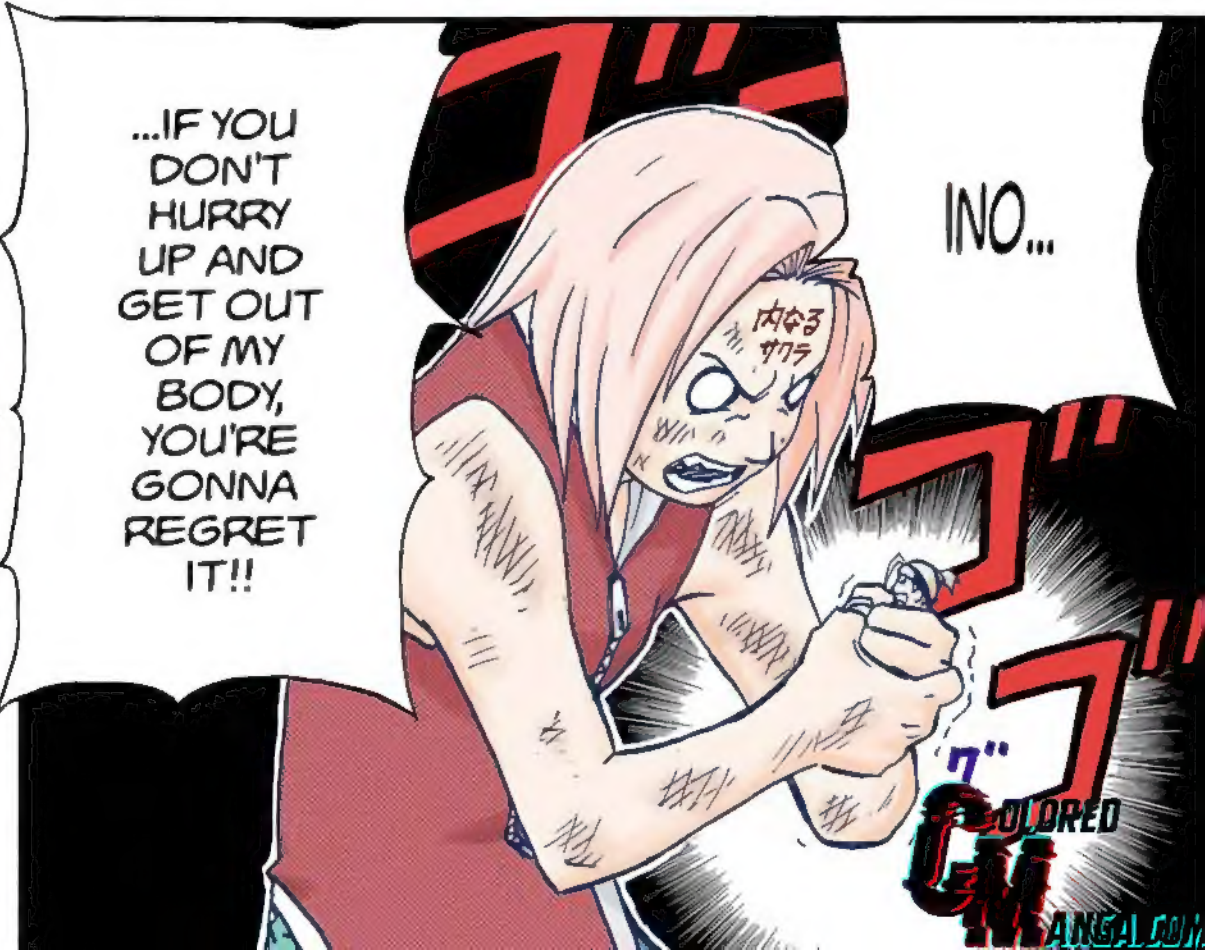
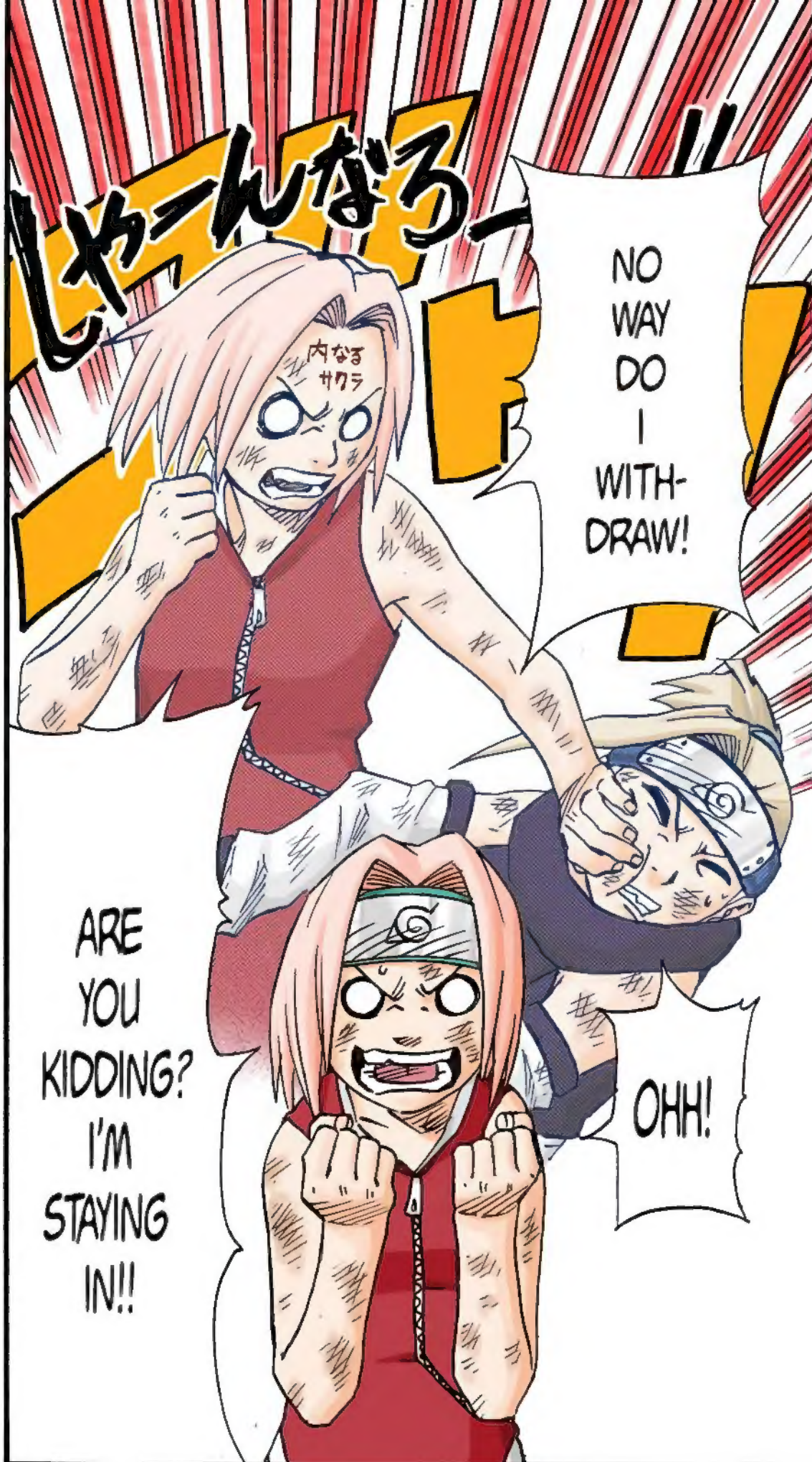
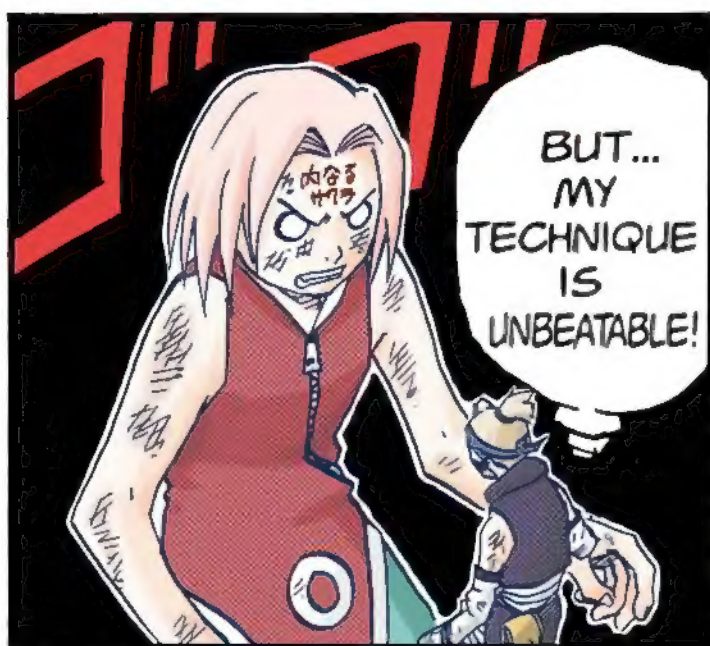


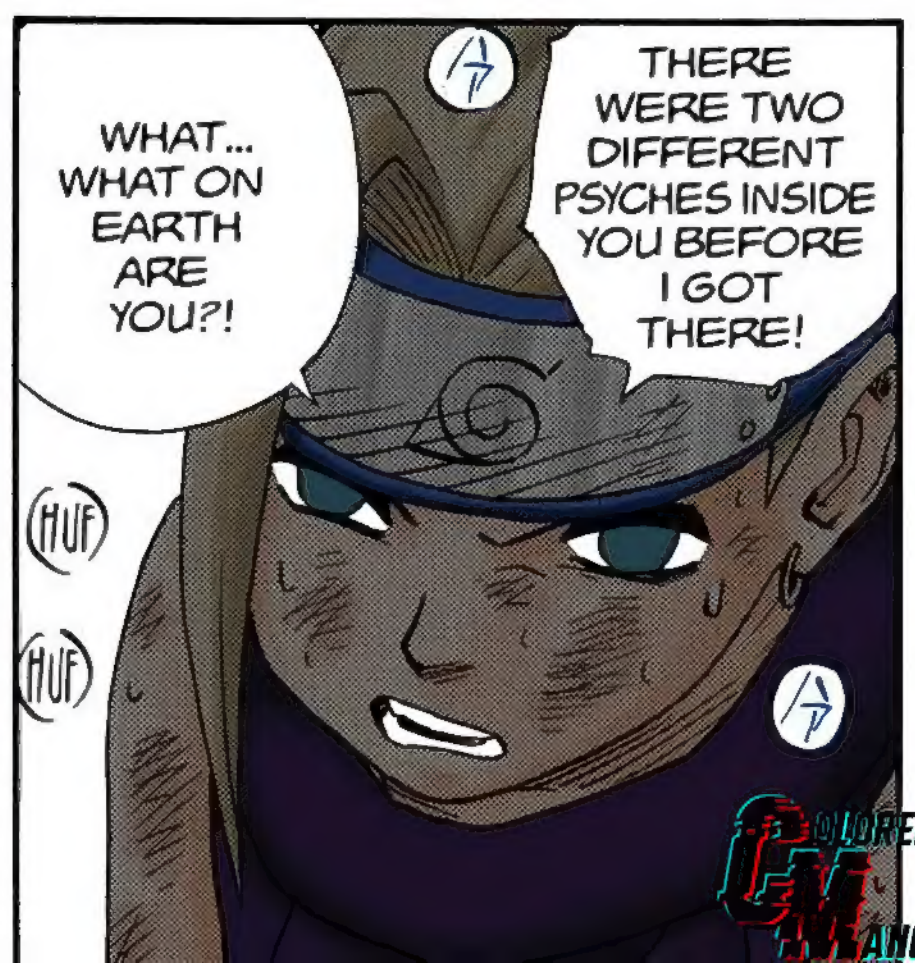
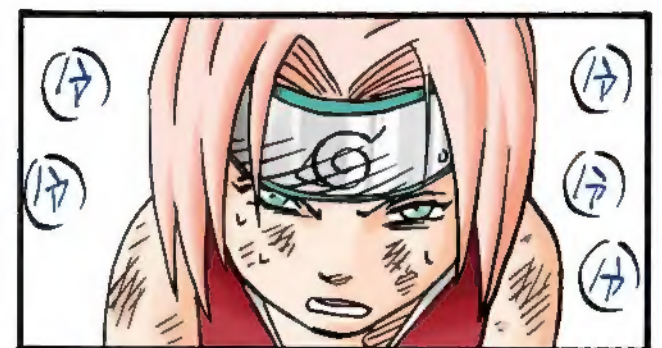
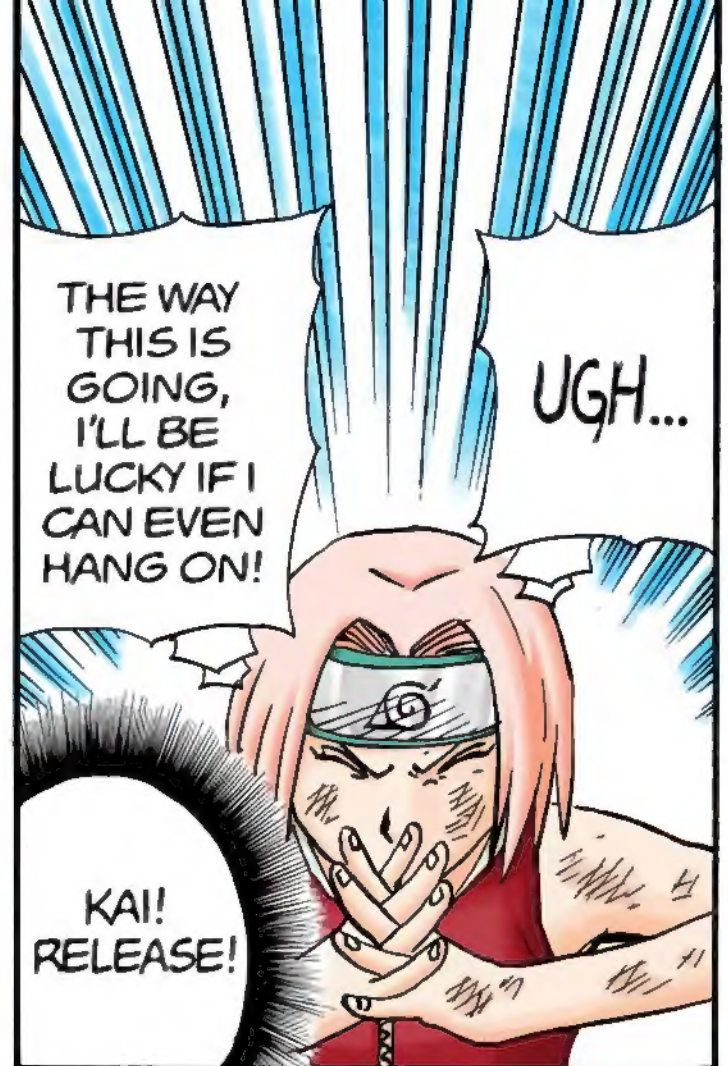
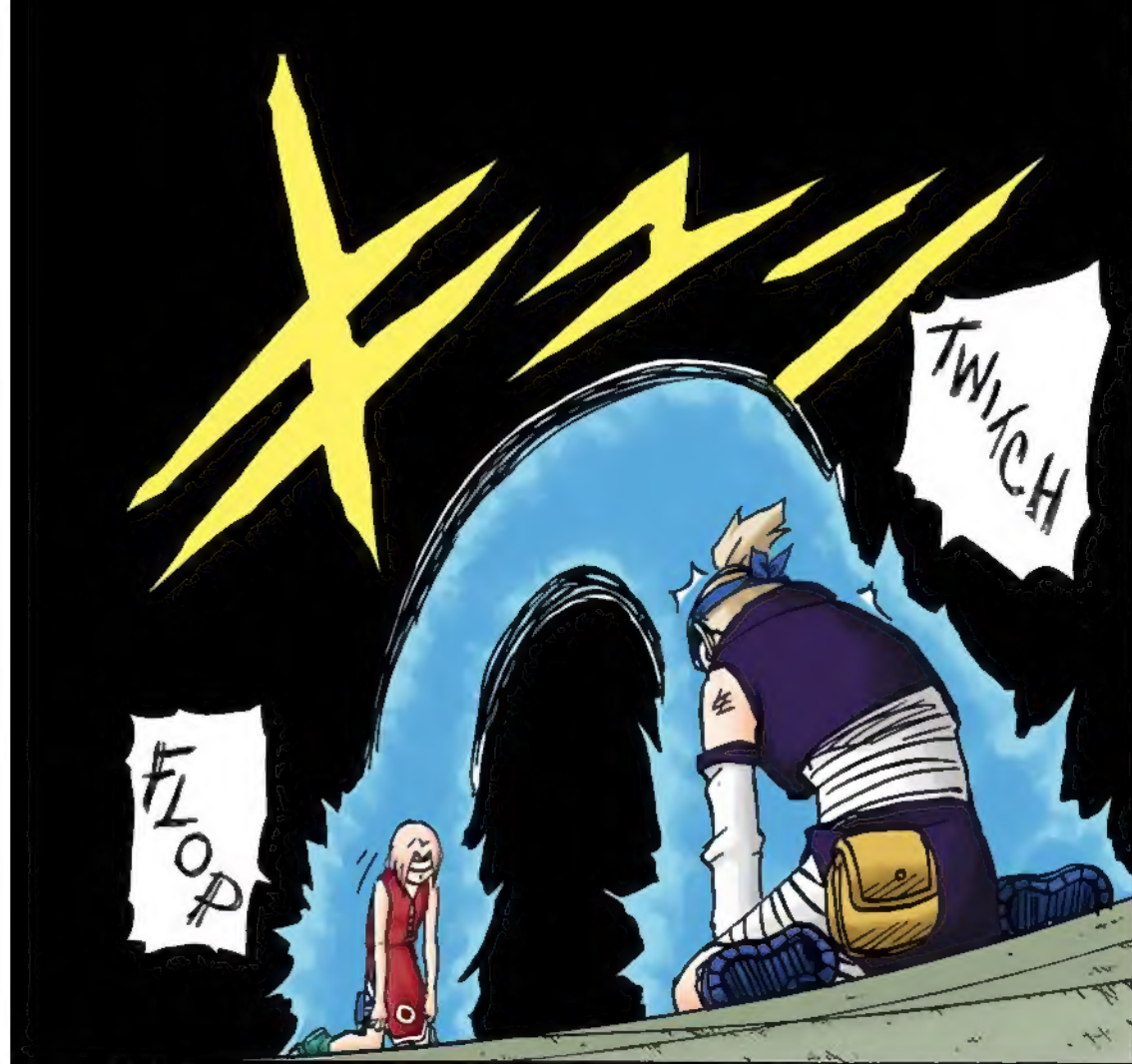


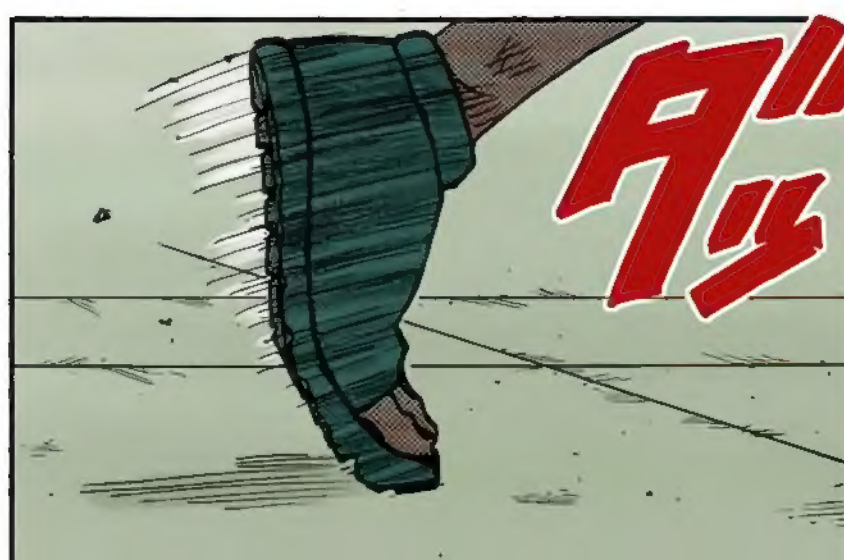
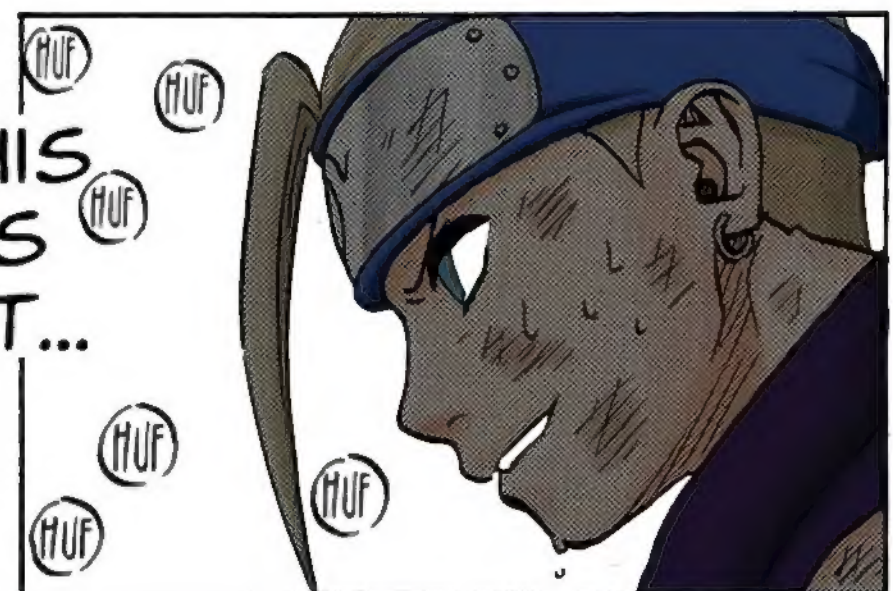
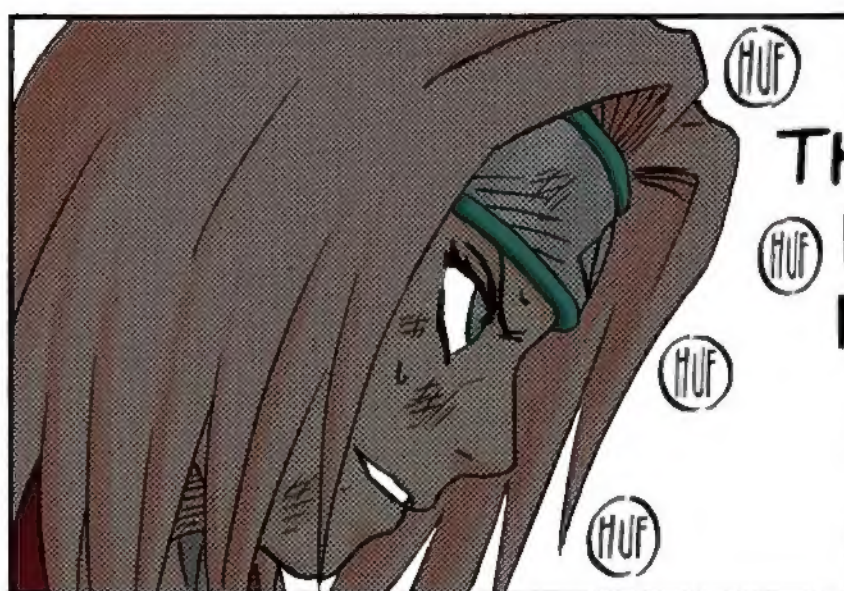
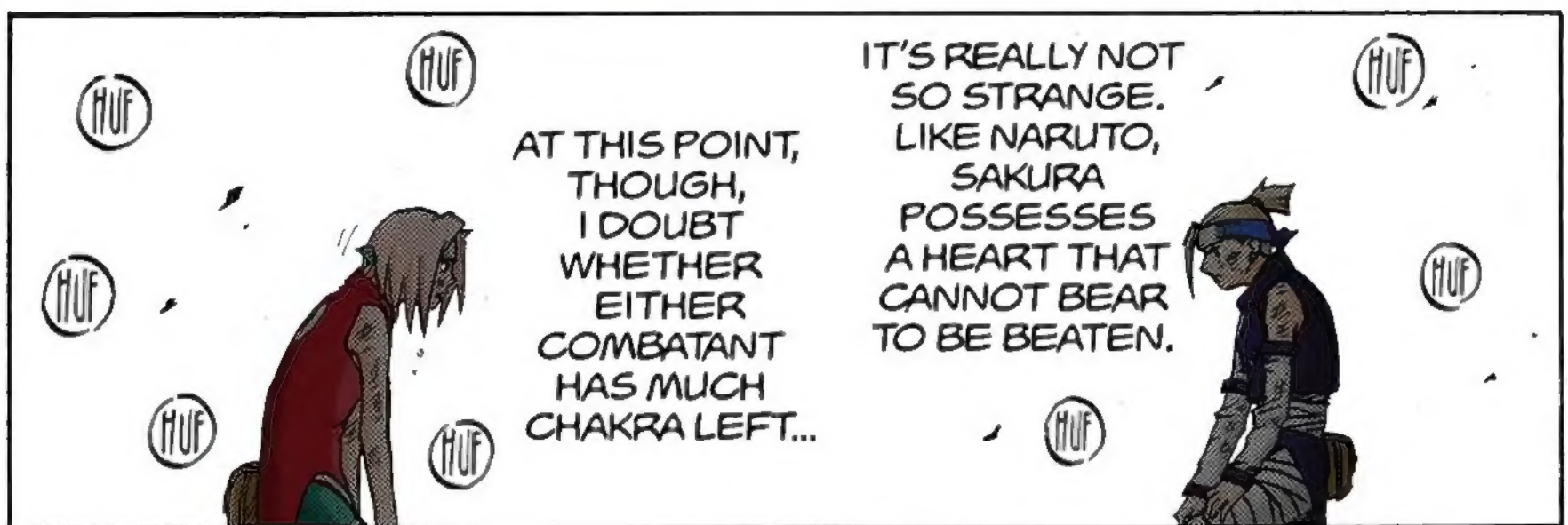
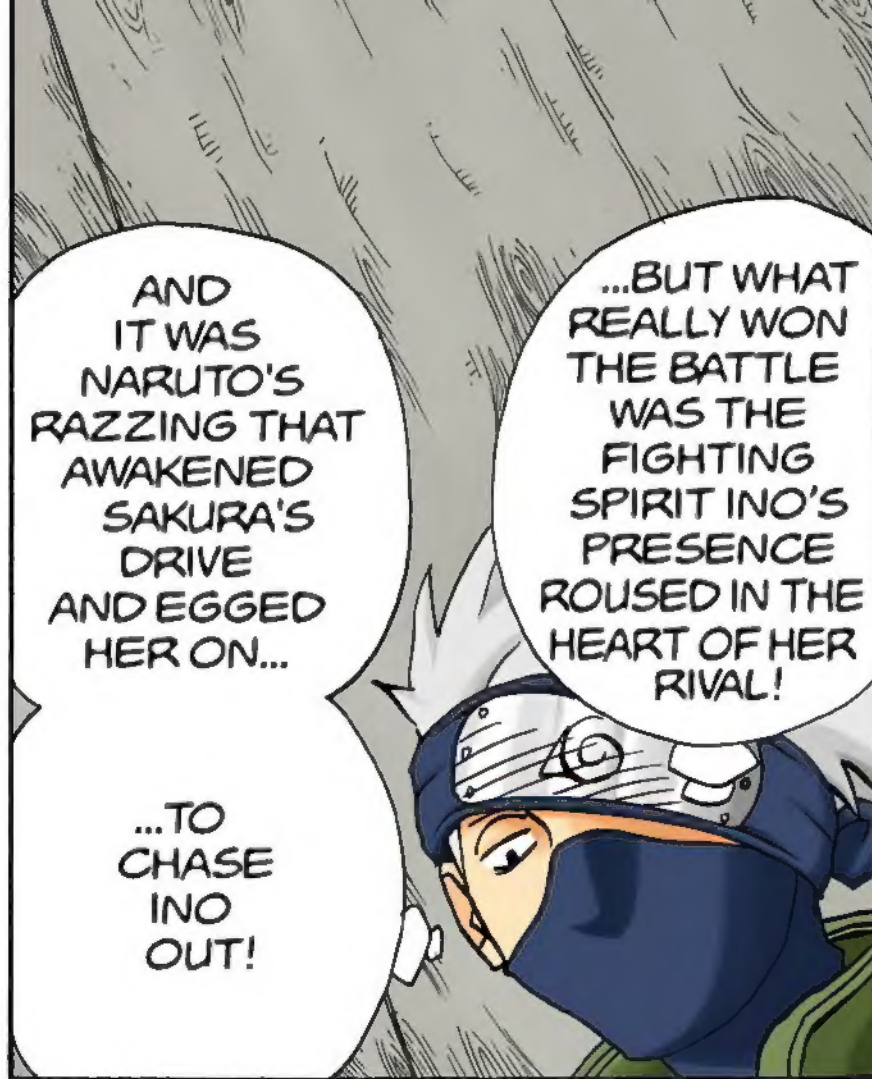


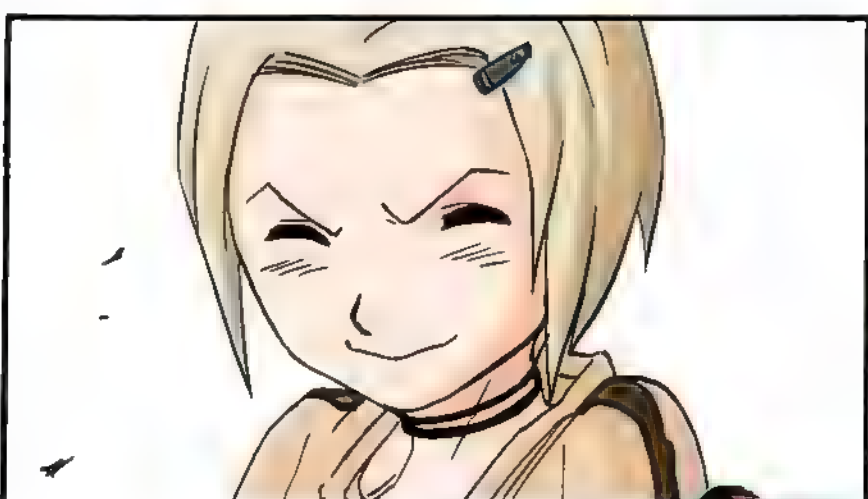
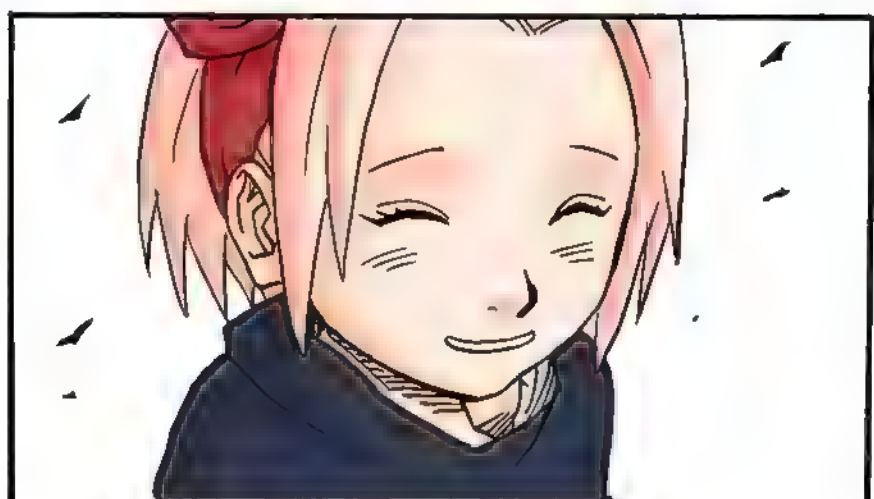
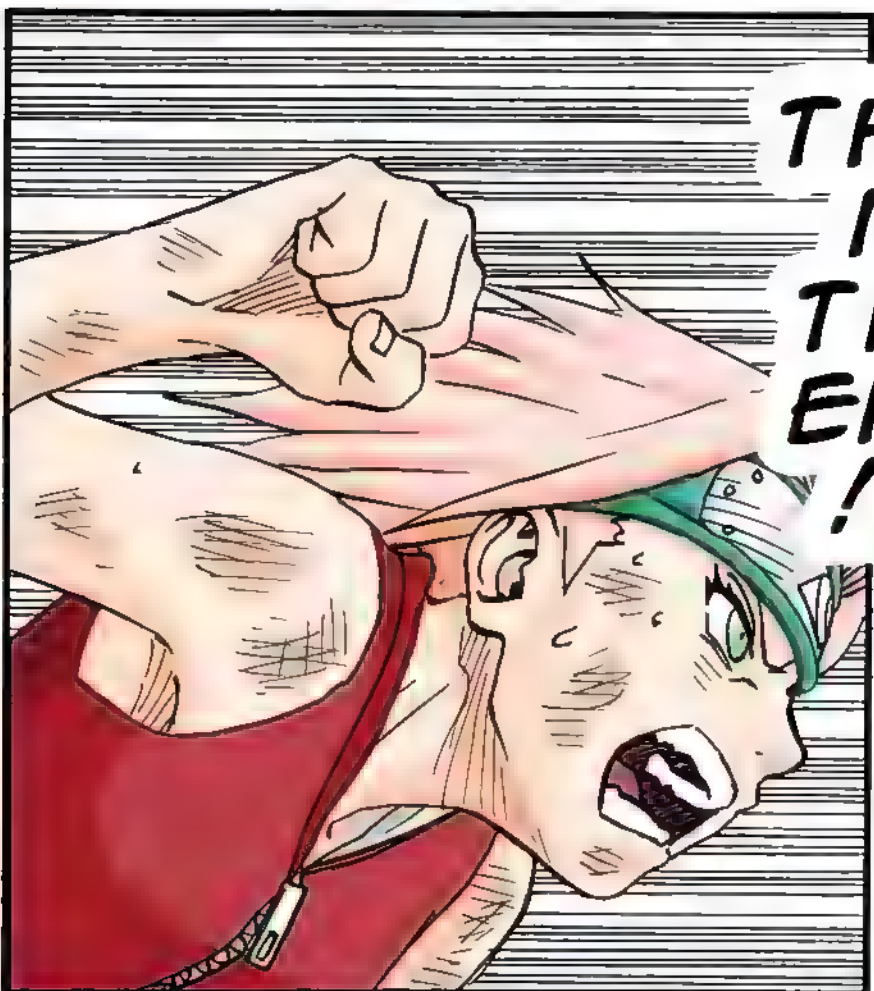
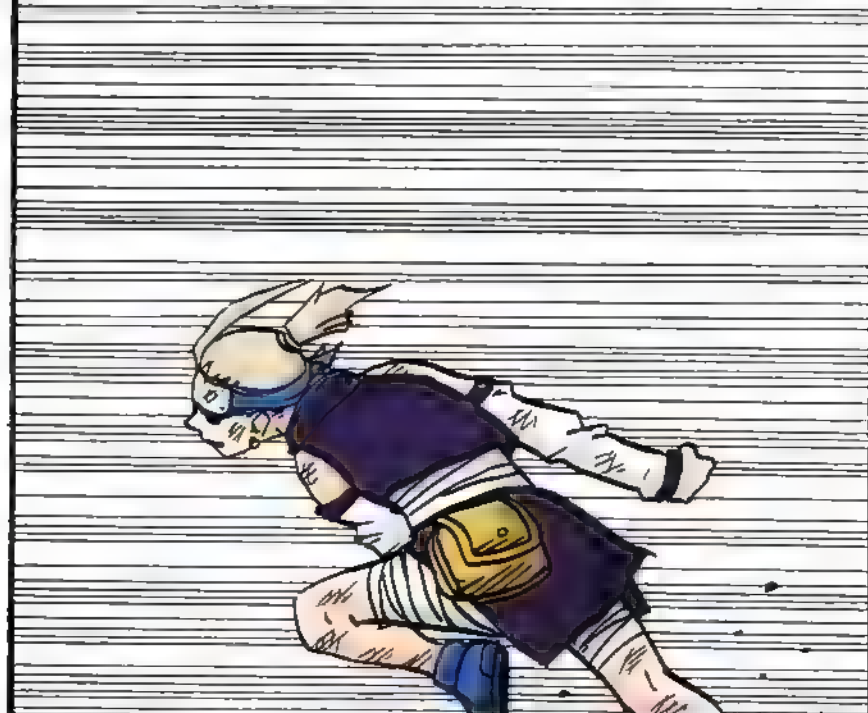
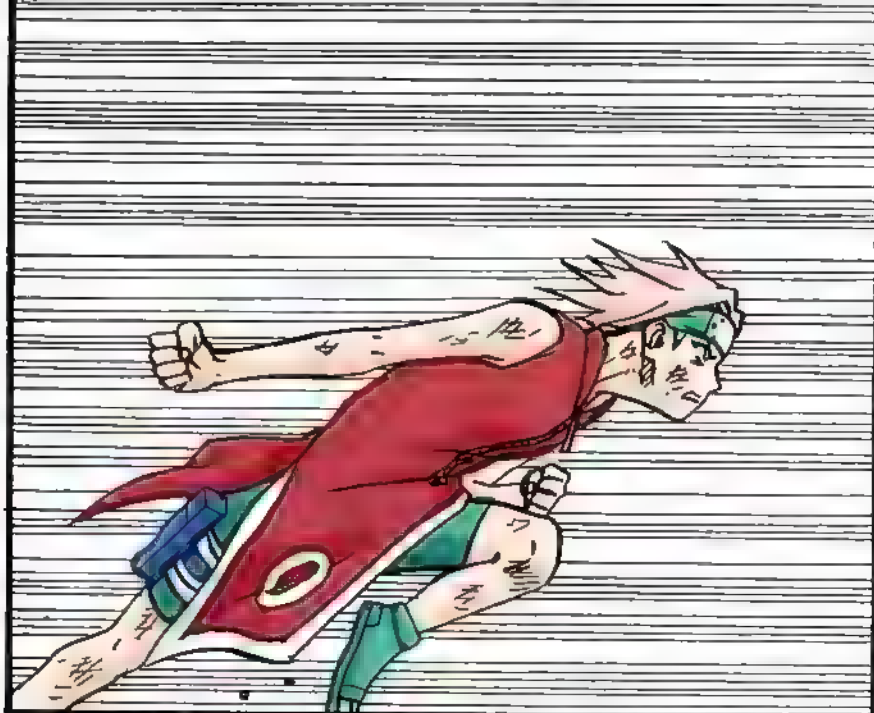


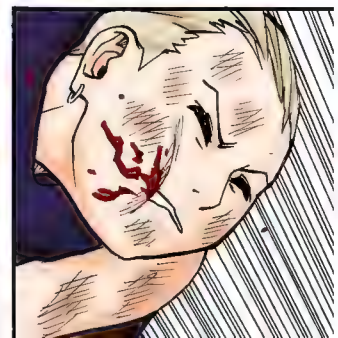
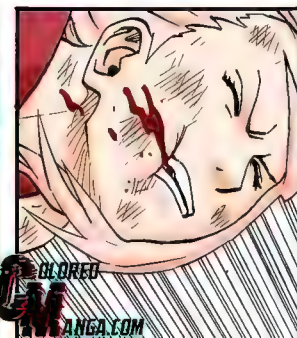
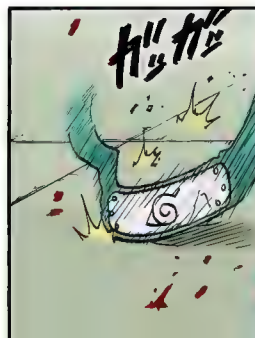


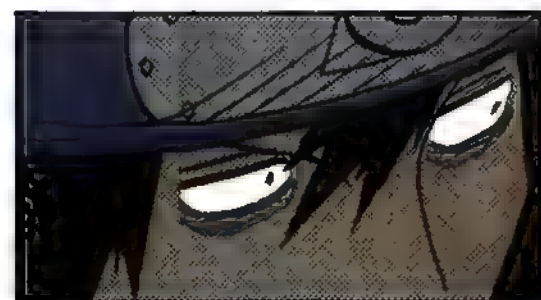
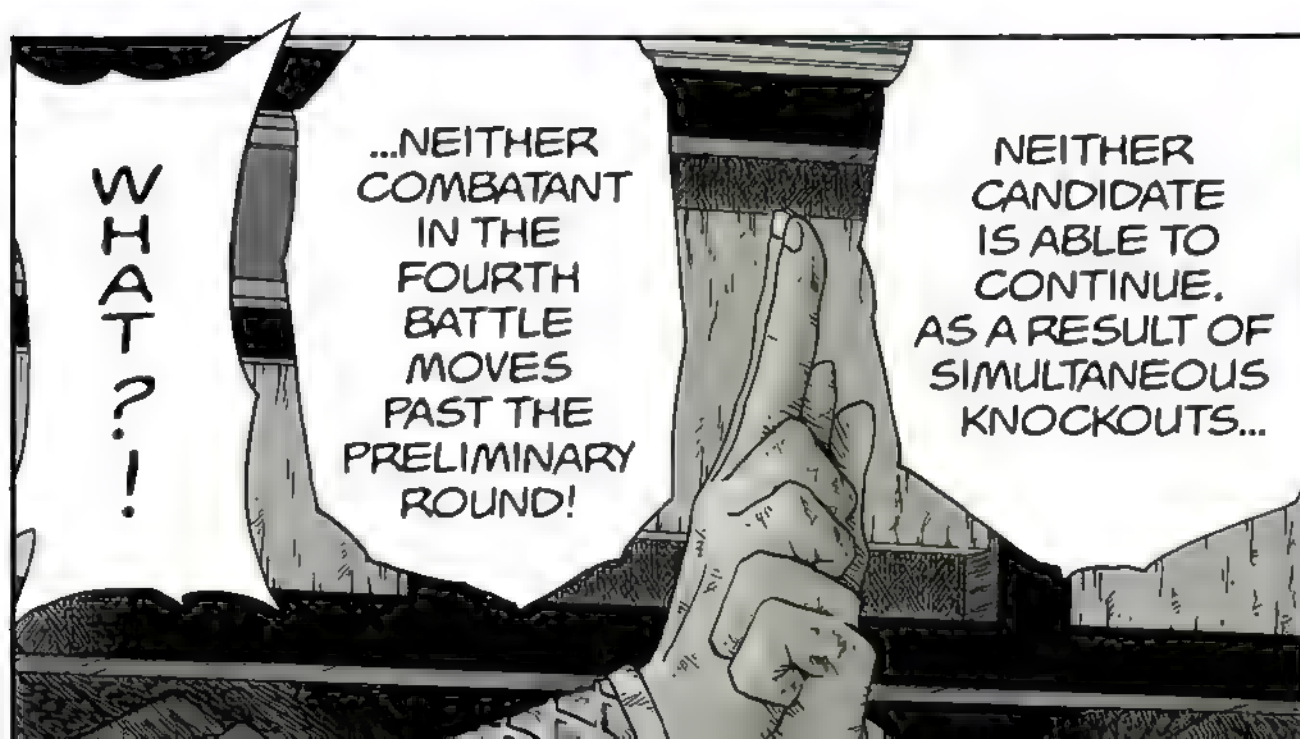
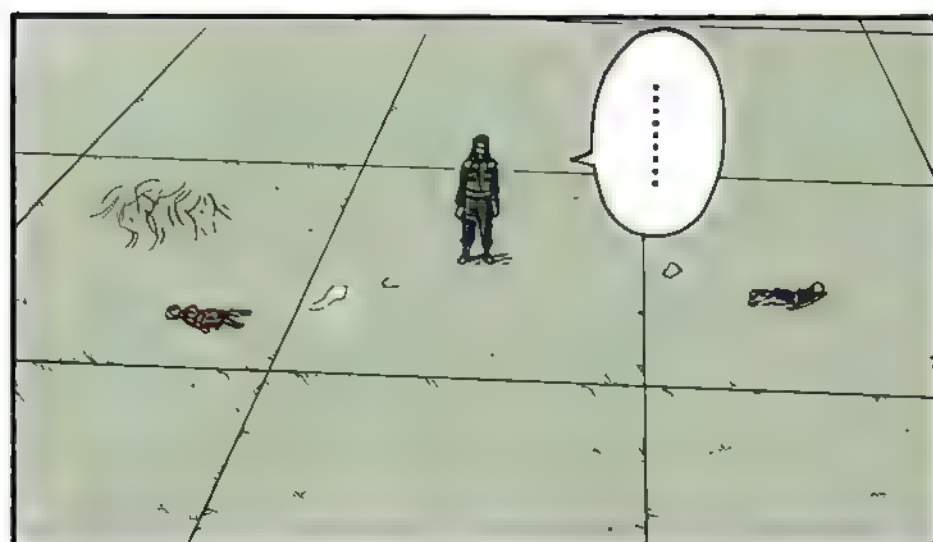
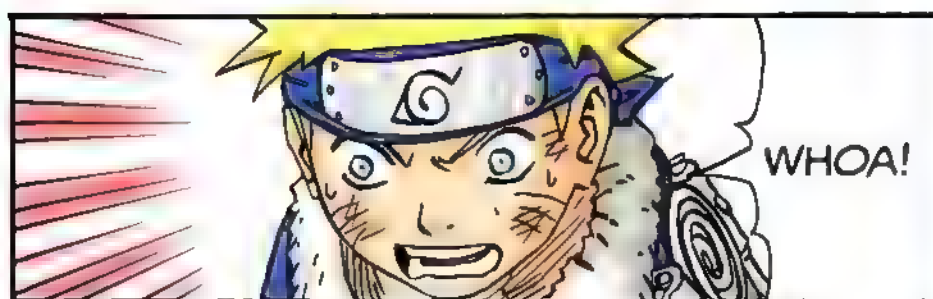
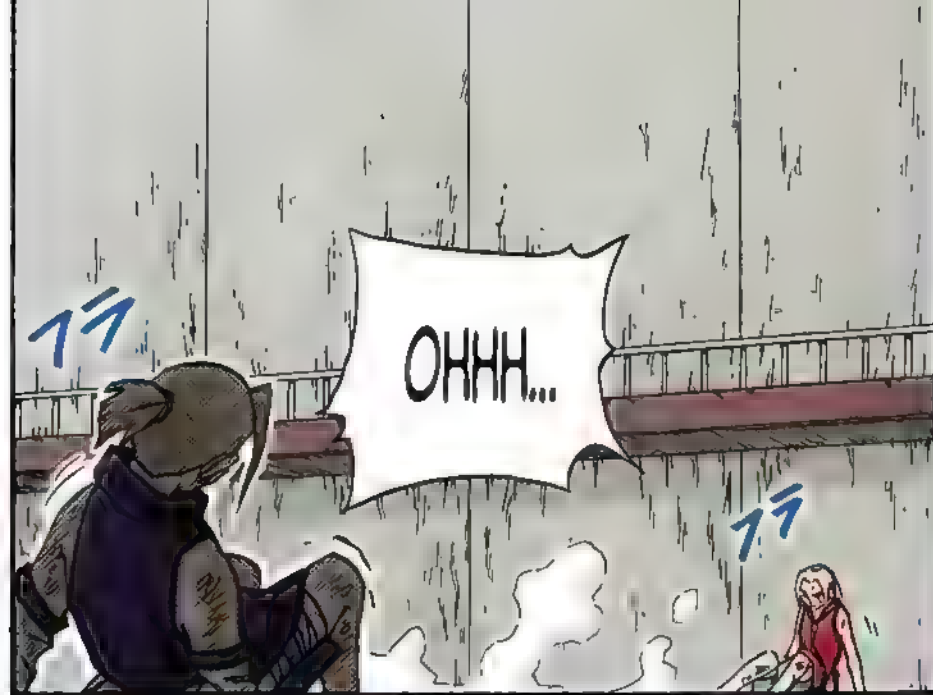


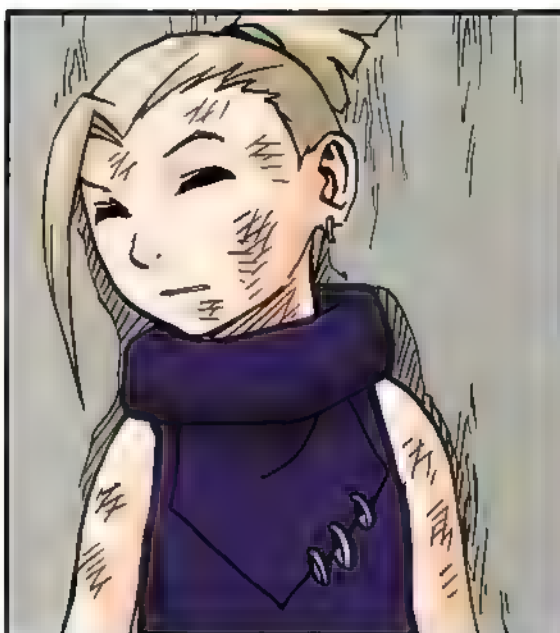
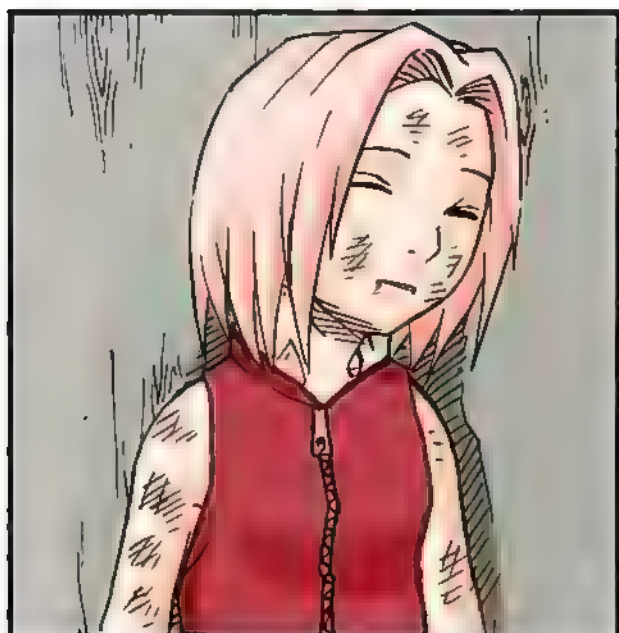
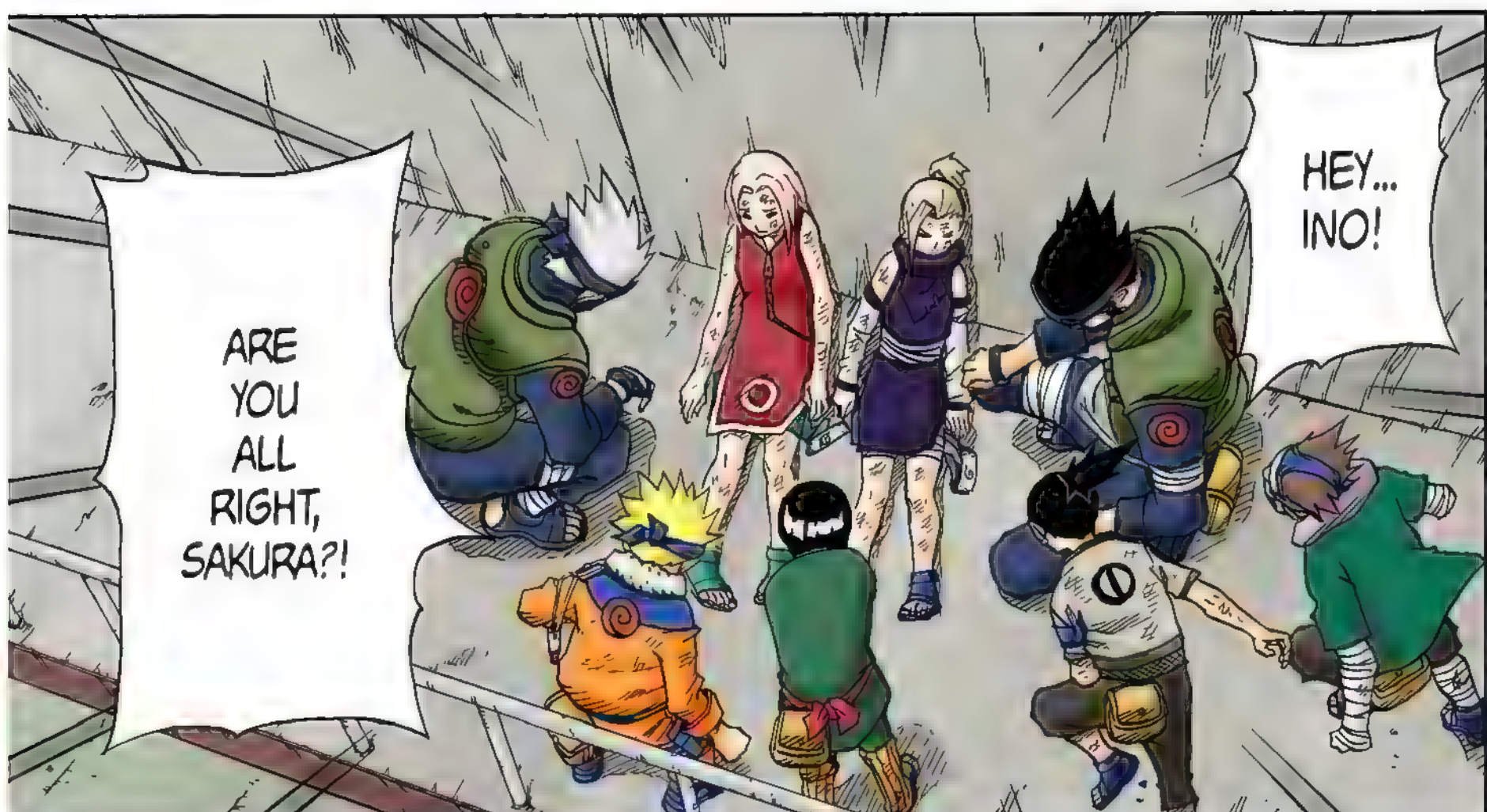
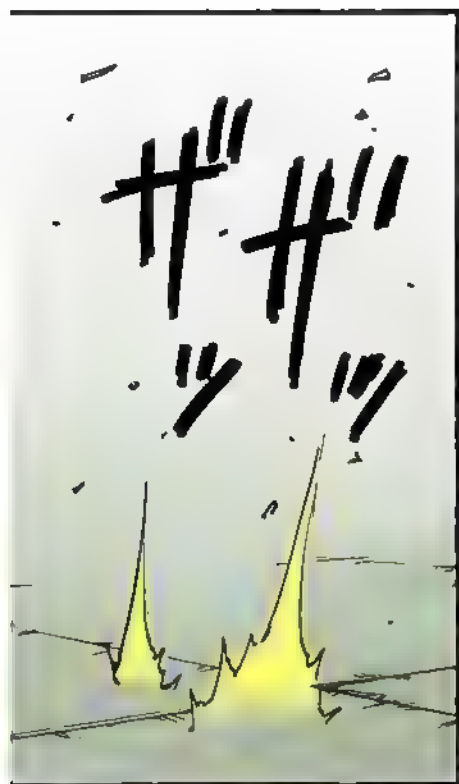












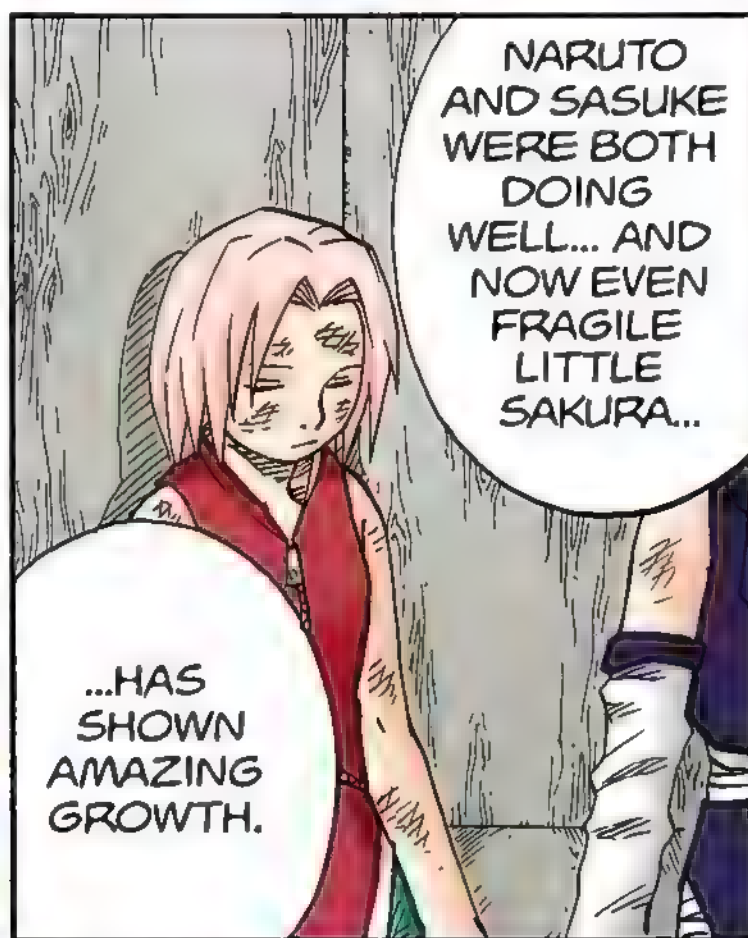


THEY SHOULD BOTH REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS WITHIN THE NEXT HALF HOUR.

NEITHER ONE IS HURT BADLY ENOUGH TO NEED TREATMENT FROM THE MEDICAL CORPS...



I KNOW YOU'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH A LOT, BUT...



NARUTO AND SASUKE WERE BOTH DOING WELL... AND NOW EVEN FRAGILE LITTLE SAKURA...

...HAS SHOWN AMAZING GROWTH.



BUT... I'M IMPRESSED BY BOTH OF THEM.

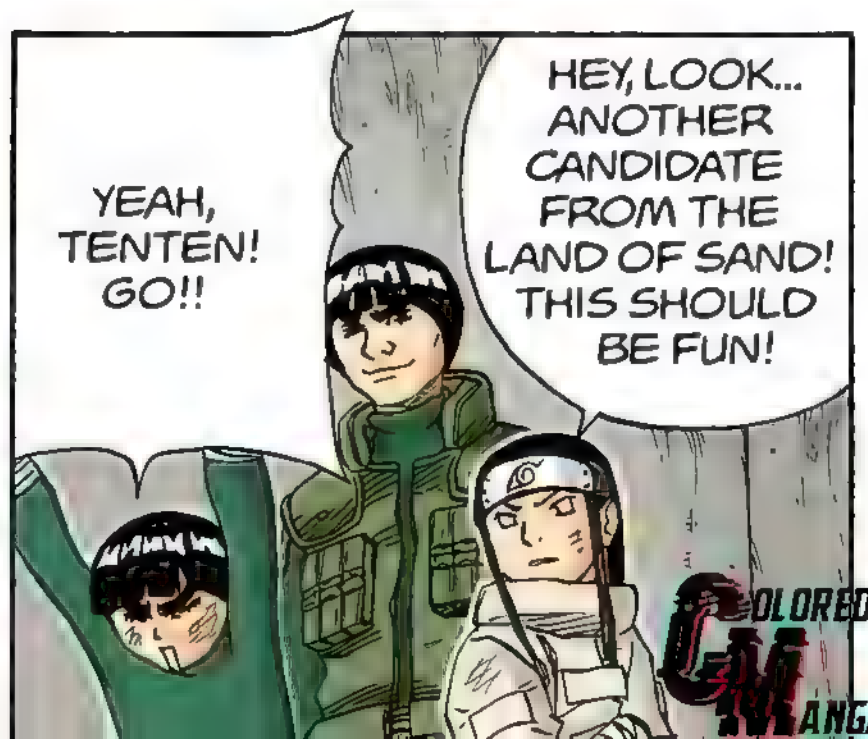
YEAH...

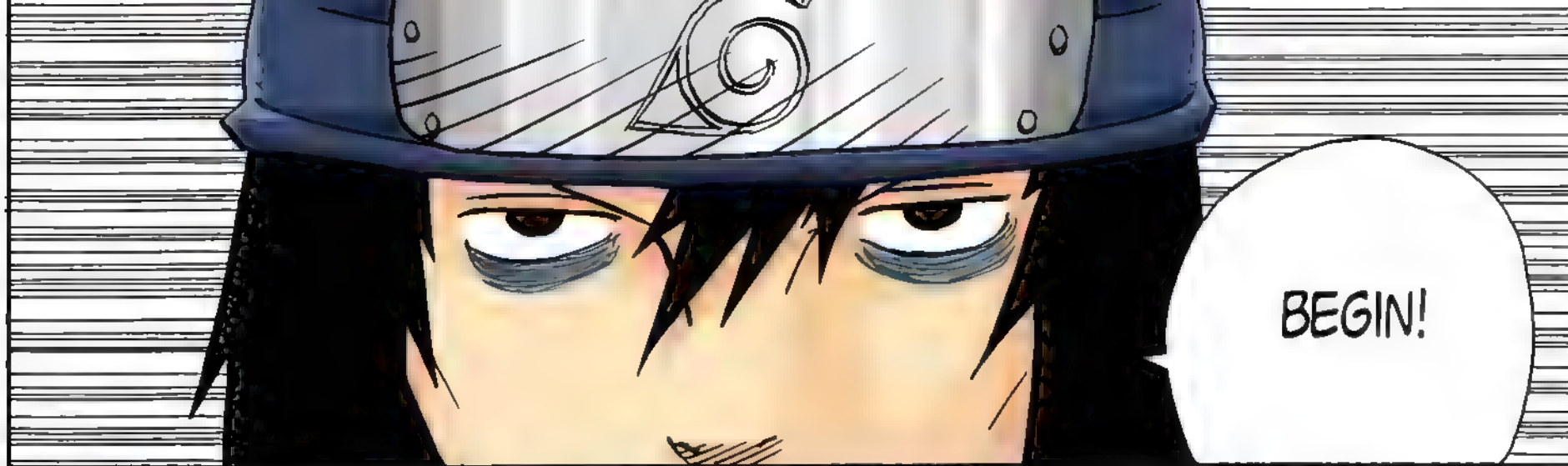
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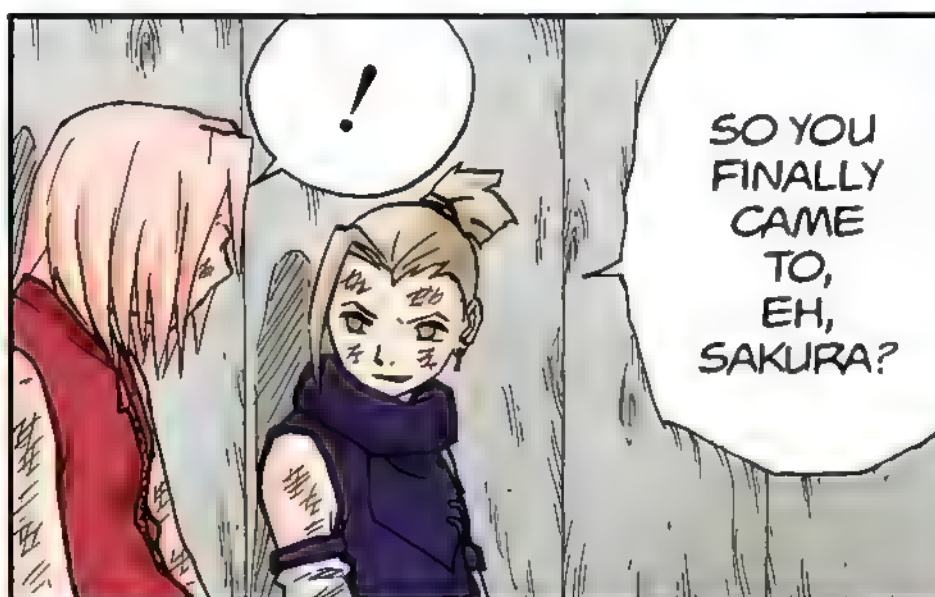
I MEAN THAT FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!

I'M GLAD I ENROLLED YOU ALL IN THE CHŪNIN SELECTION EXAM.



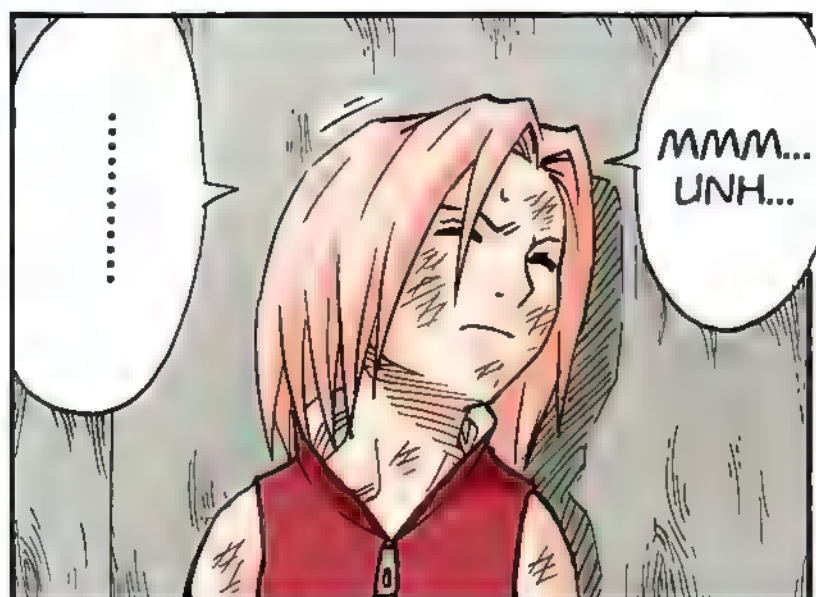


BEGIN!



!

SO YOU
FINALLY
CAME
TO,
EH,
SAKURA?



MMM...
UNH...

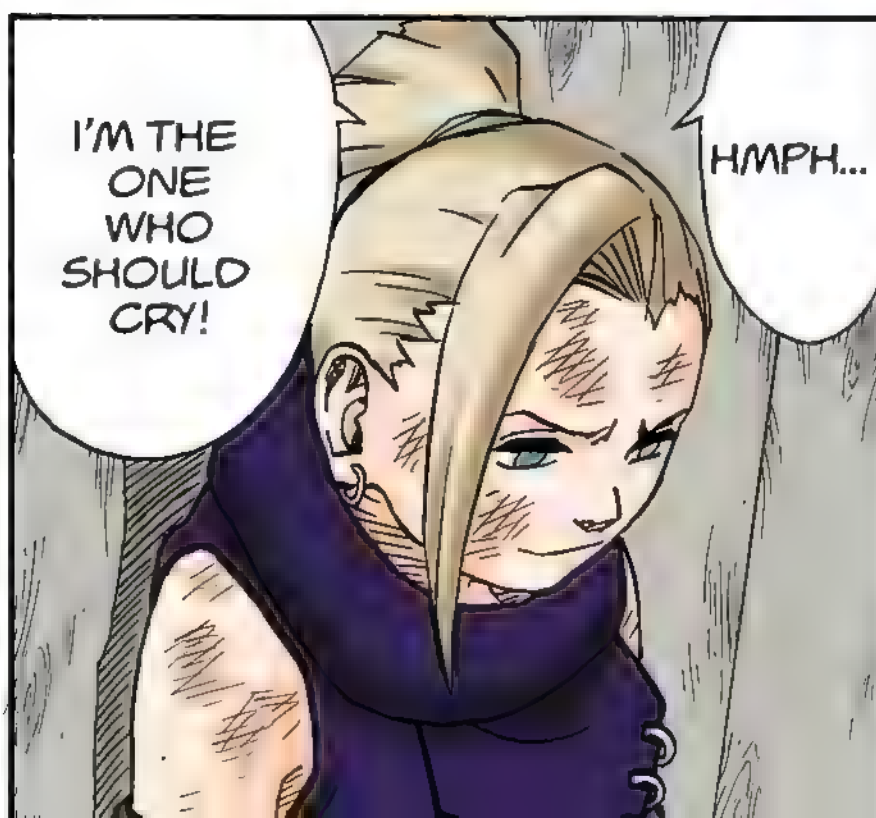


OUR
MATCH
IS OVER
AND
DONE...

THAT'S
THE SPIRIT!
KEEP
CHEERING
HER ON!!

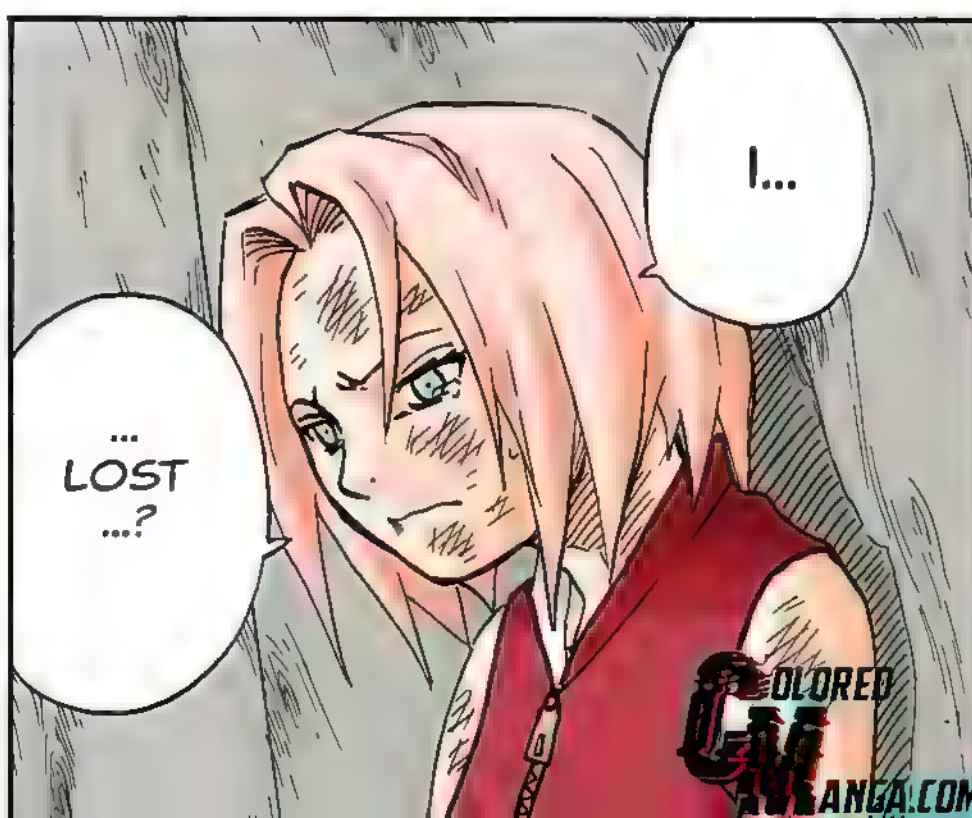
TENTEN,
USE THE
POWER
OF YOUR
YOUTH!

FLINCH



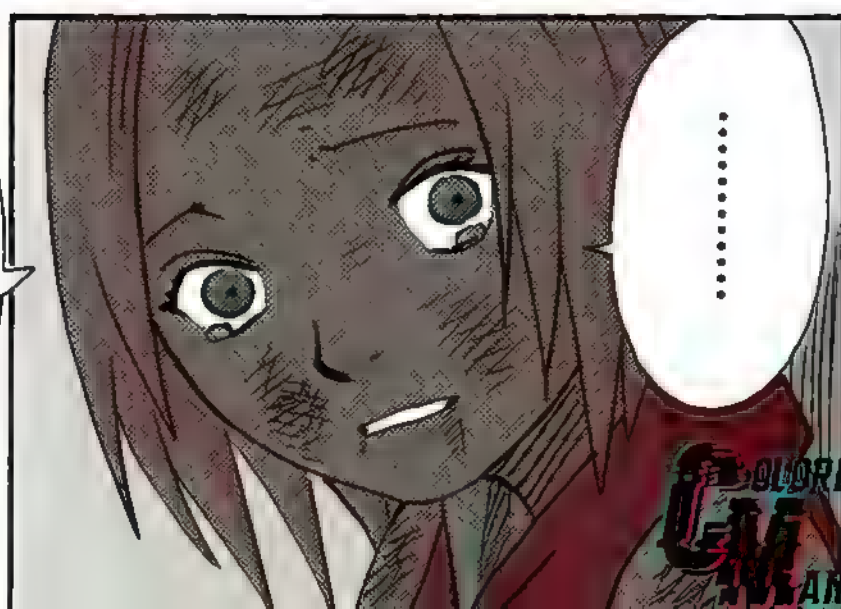
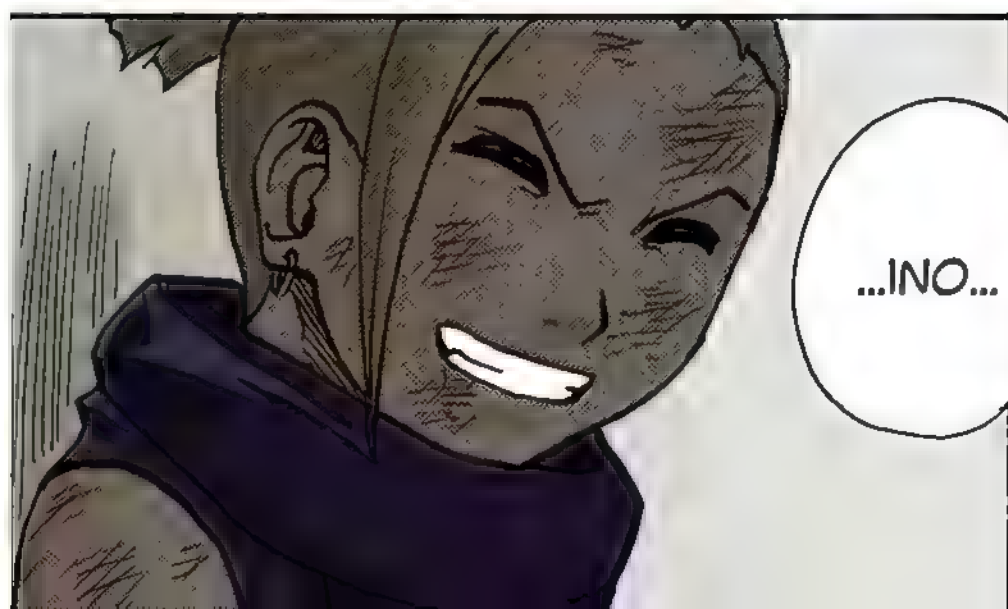
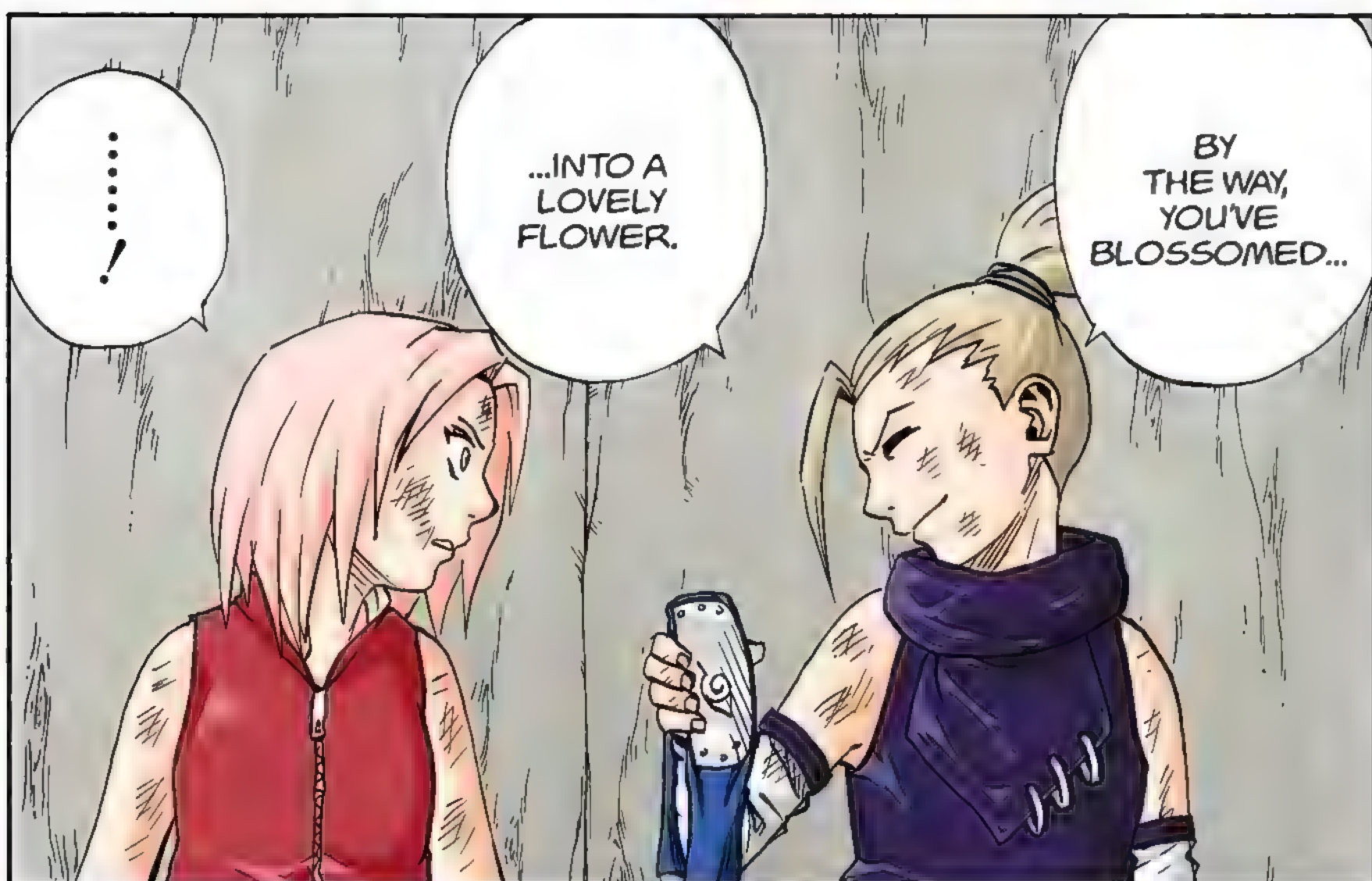
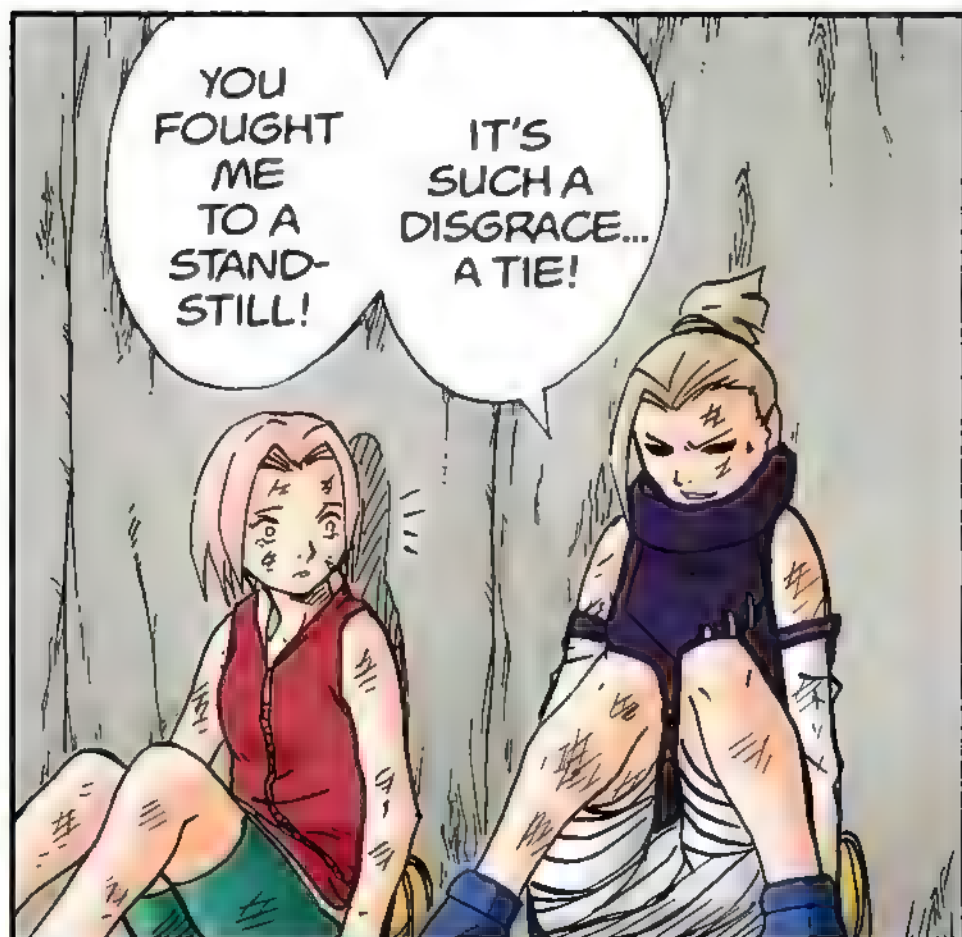
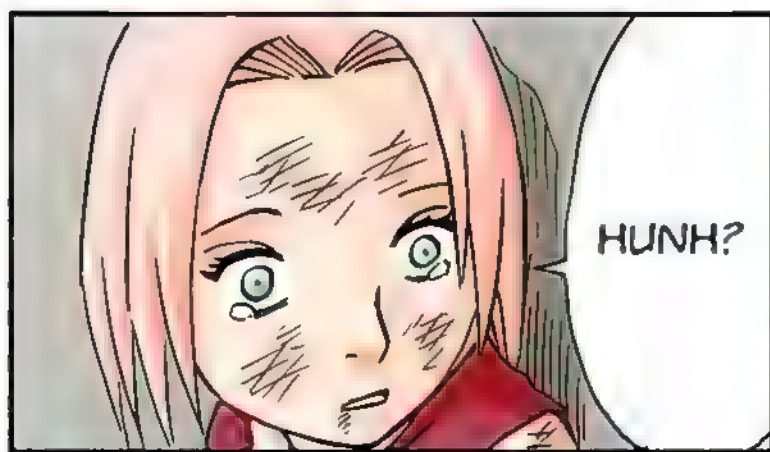
I'M THE
ONE
WHO
SHOULD
CRY!

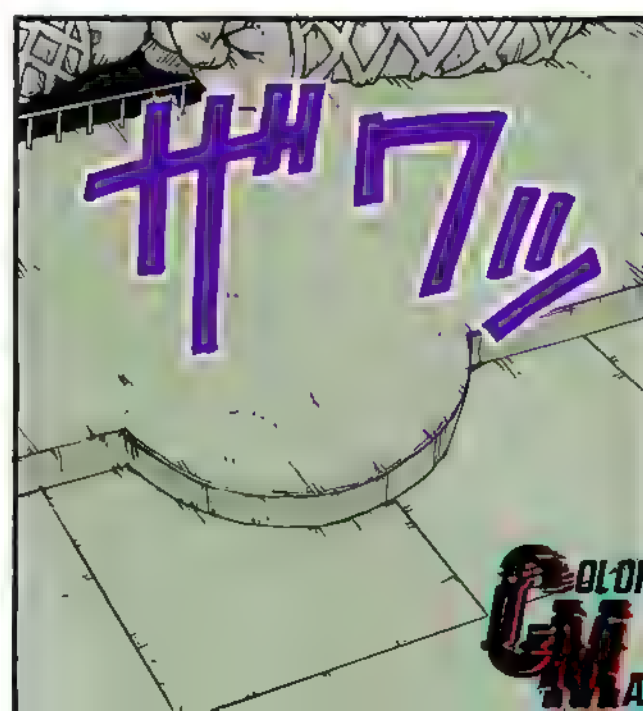
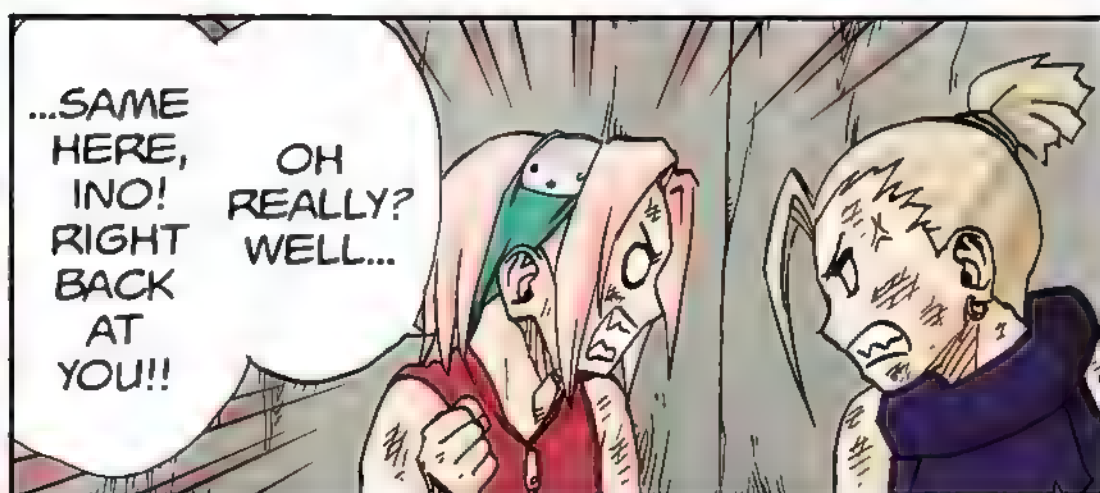
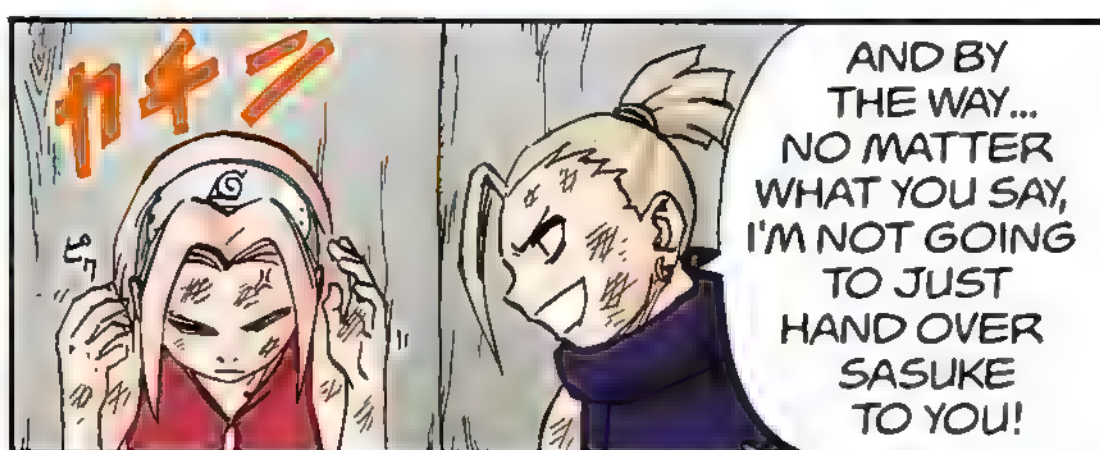
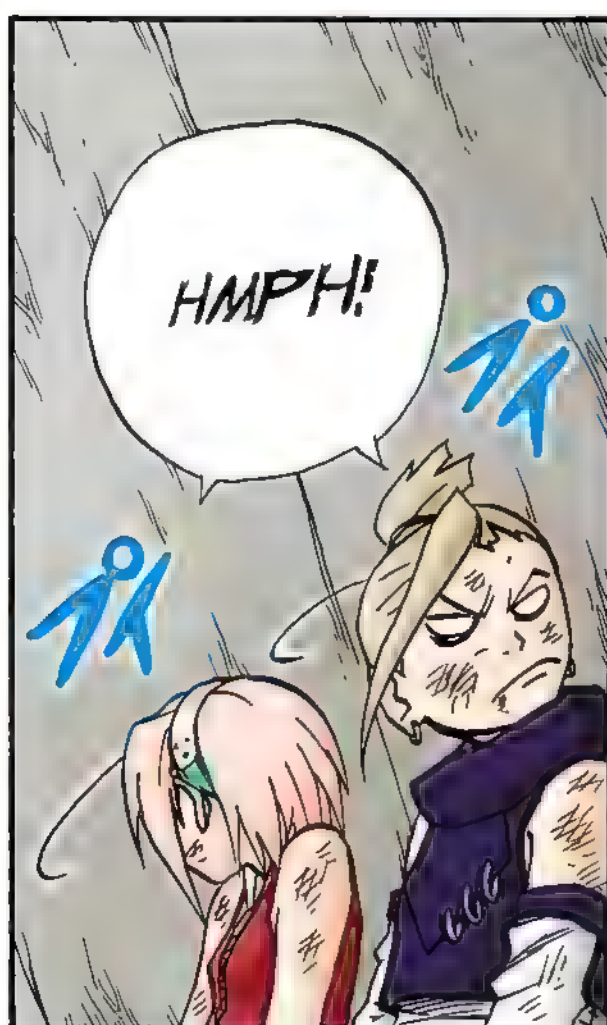
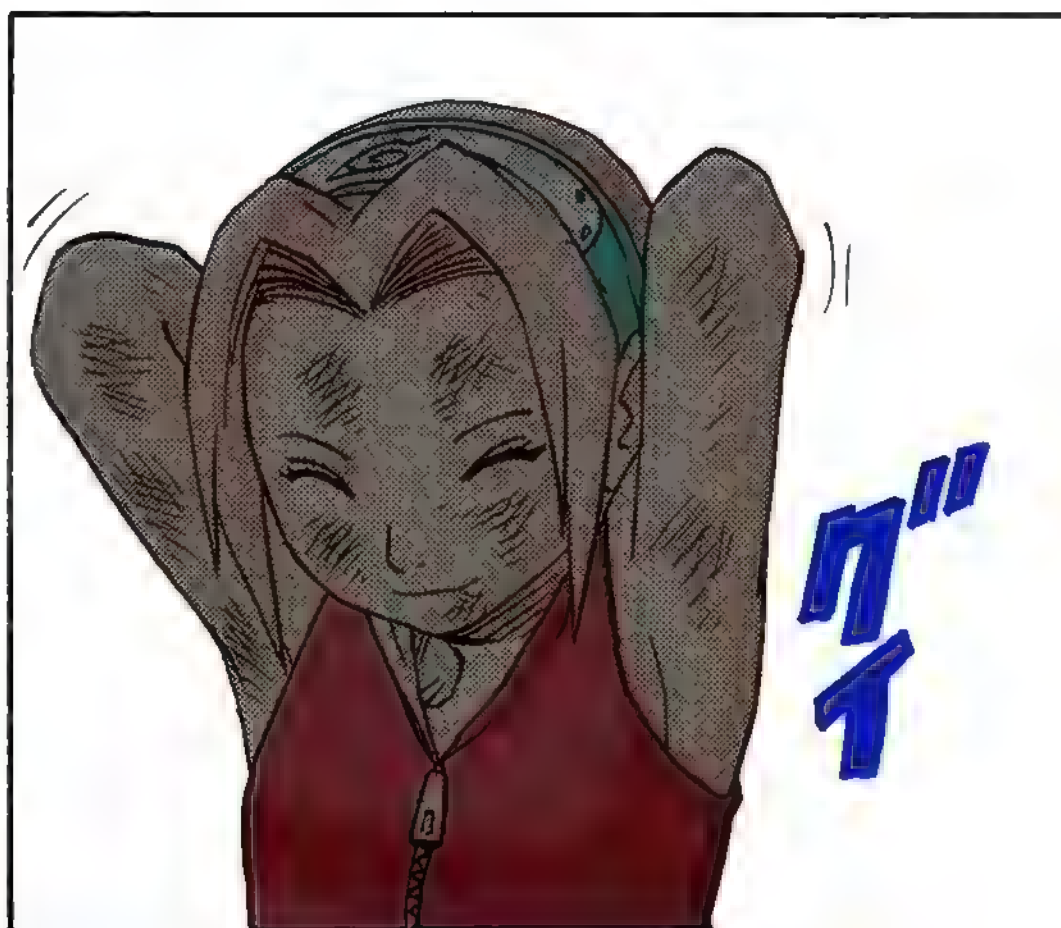
HMPH...

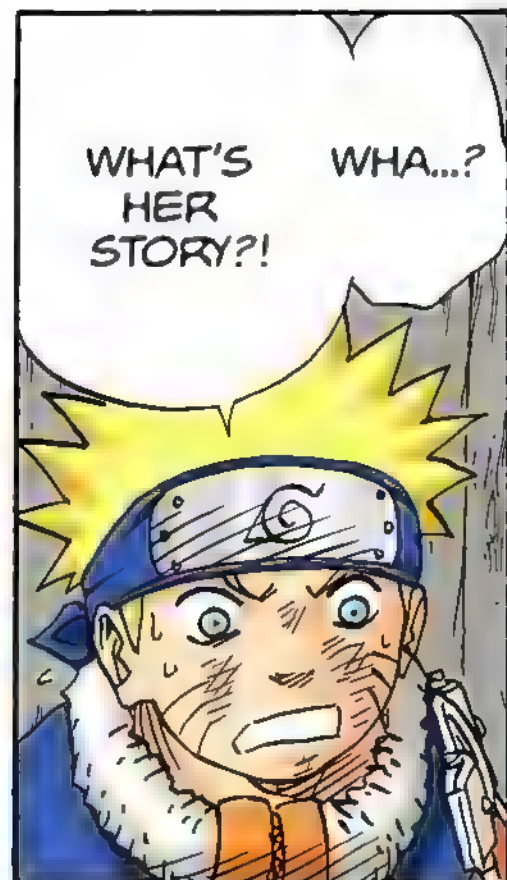
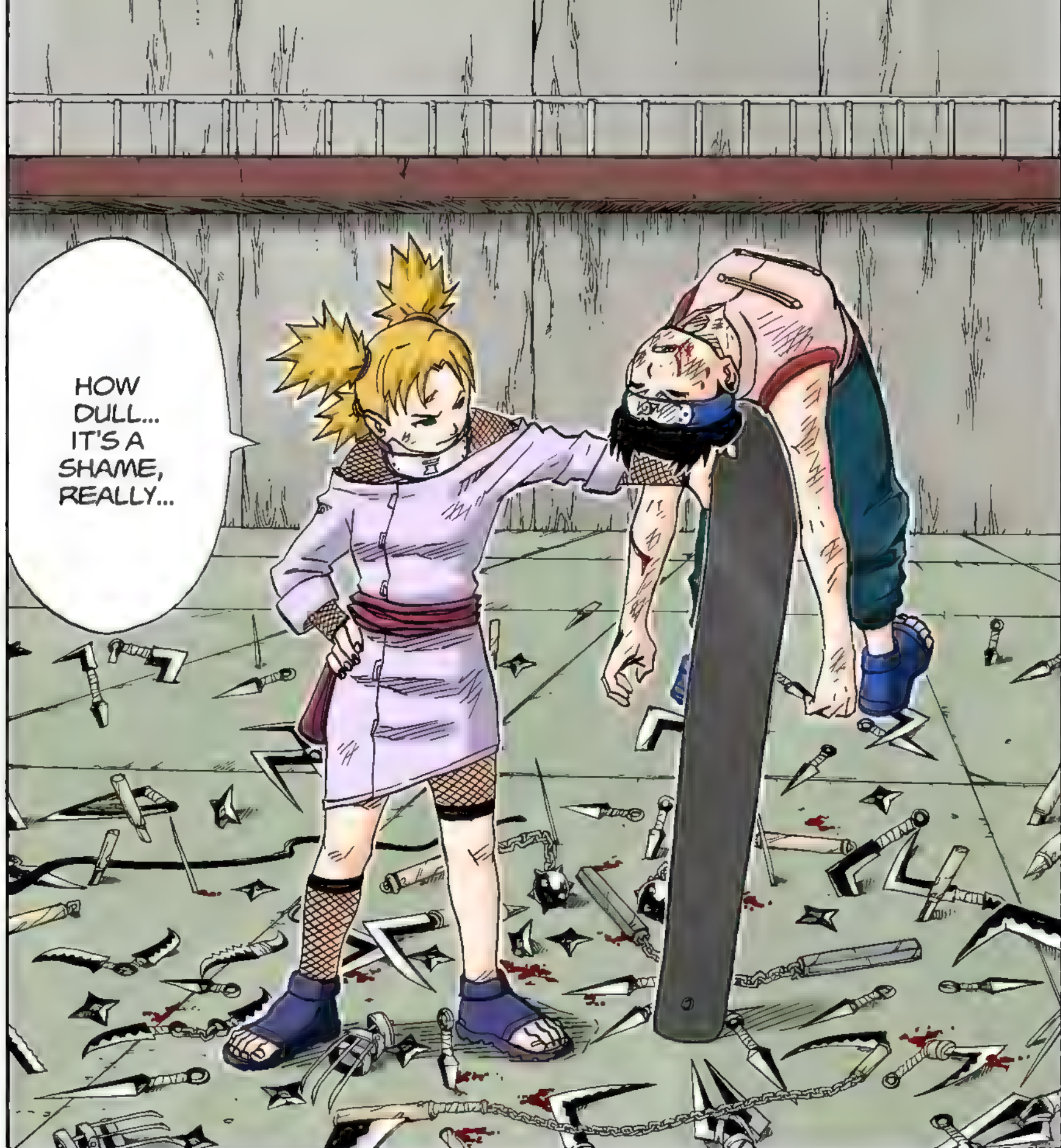


I...

...
LOST
...?



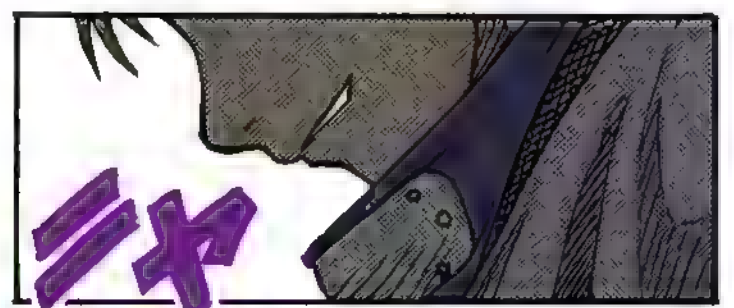
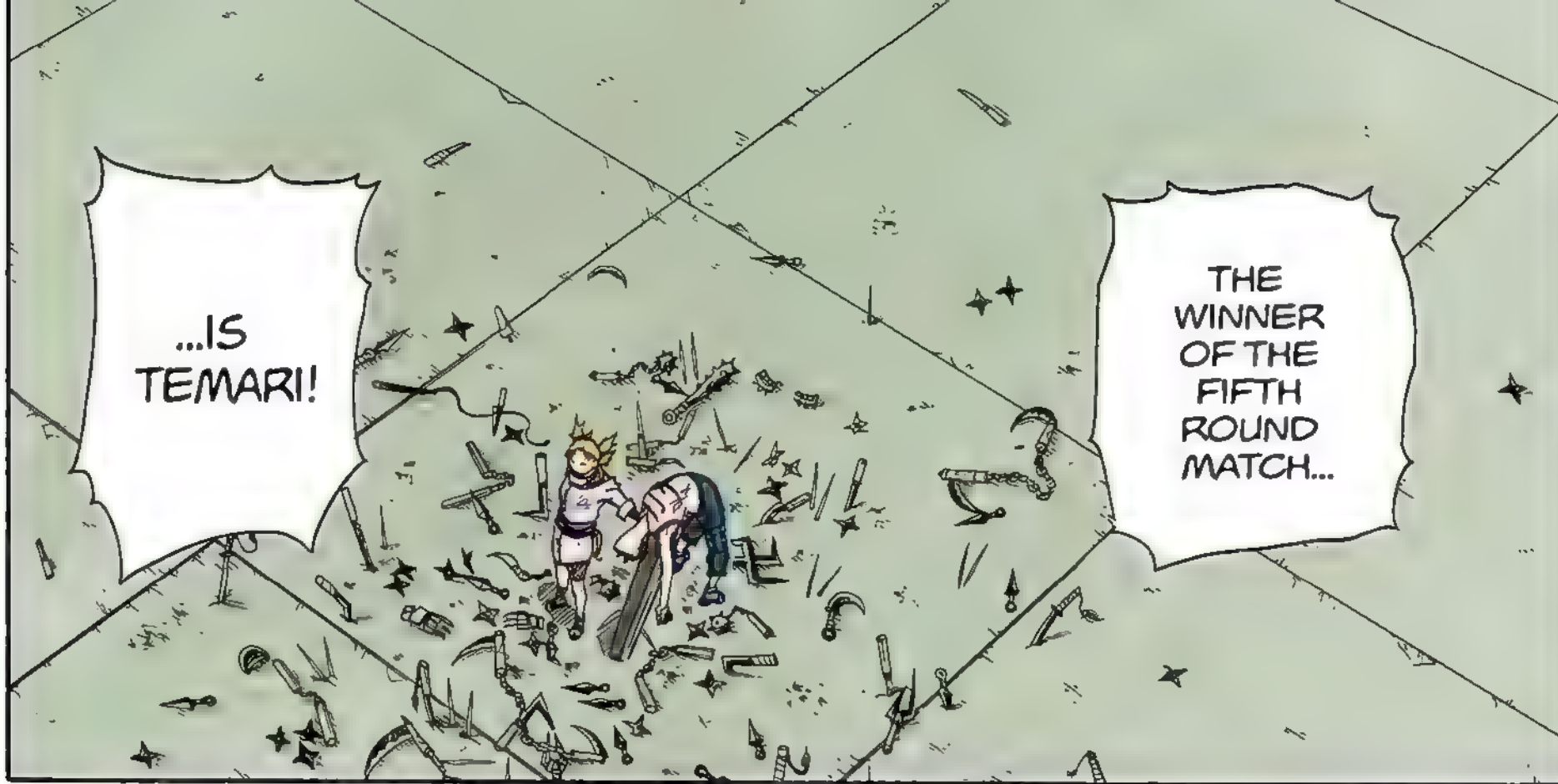


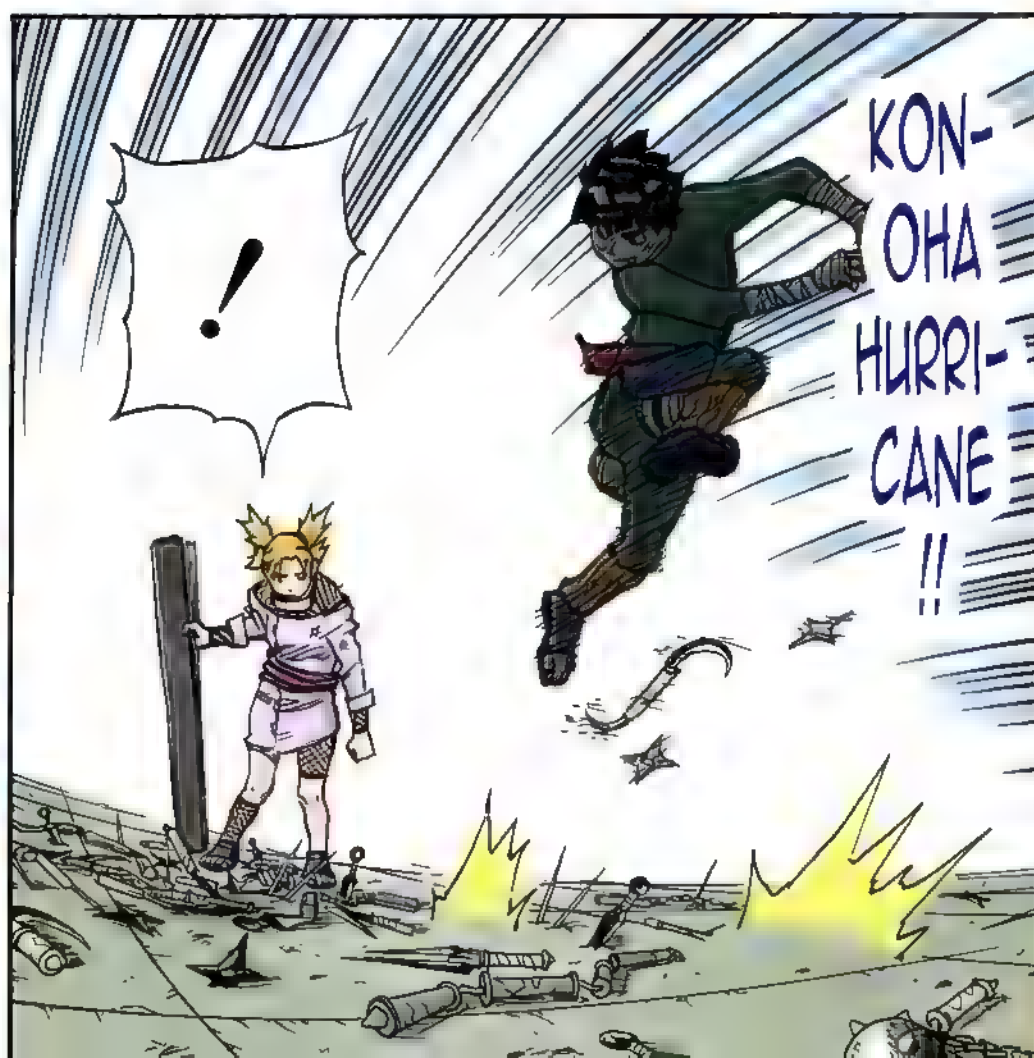
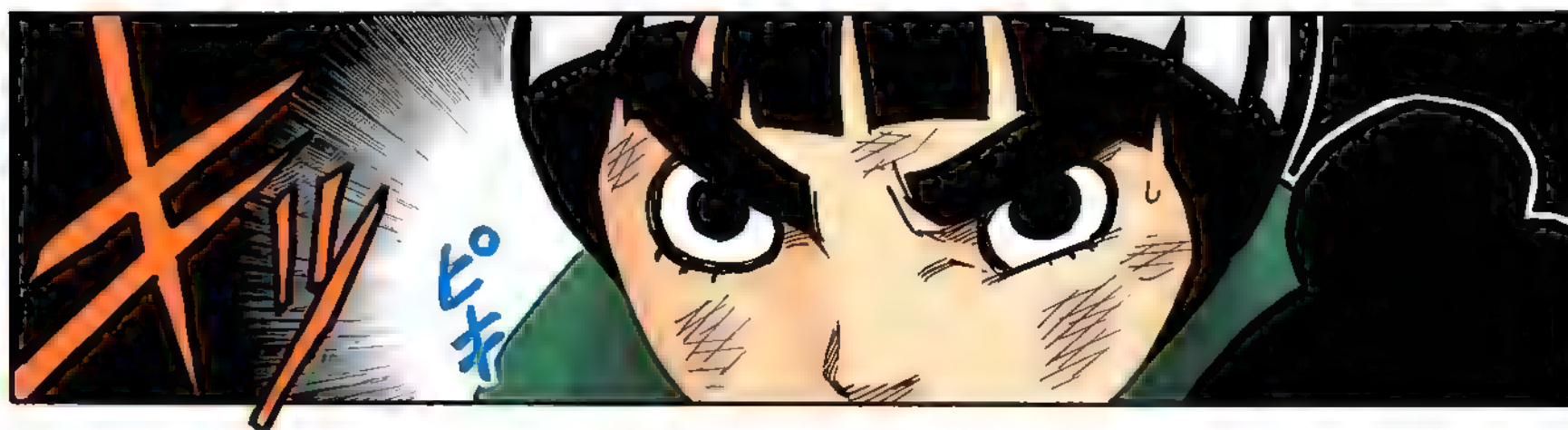
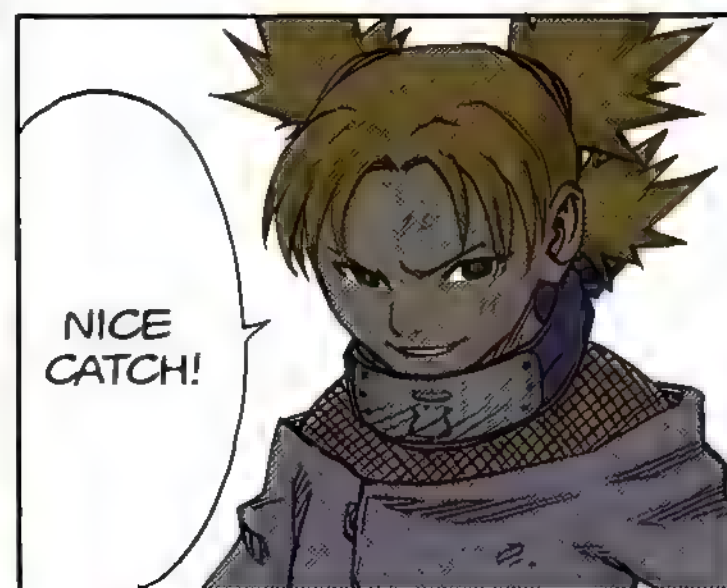


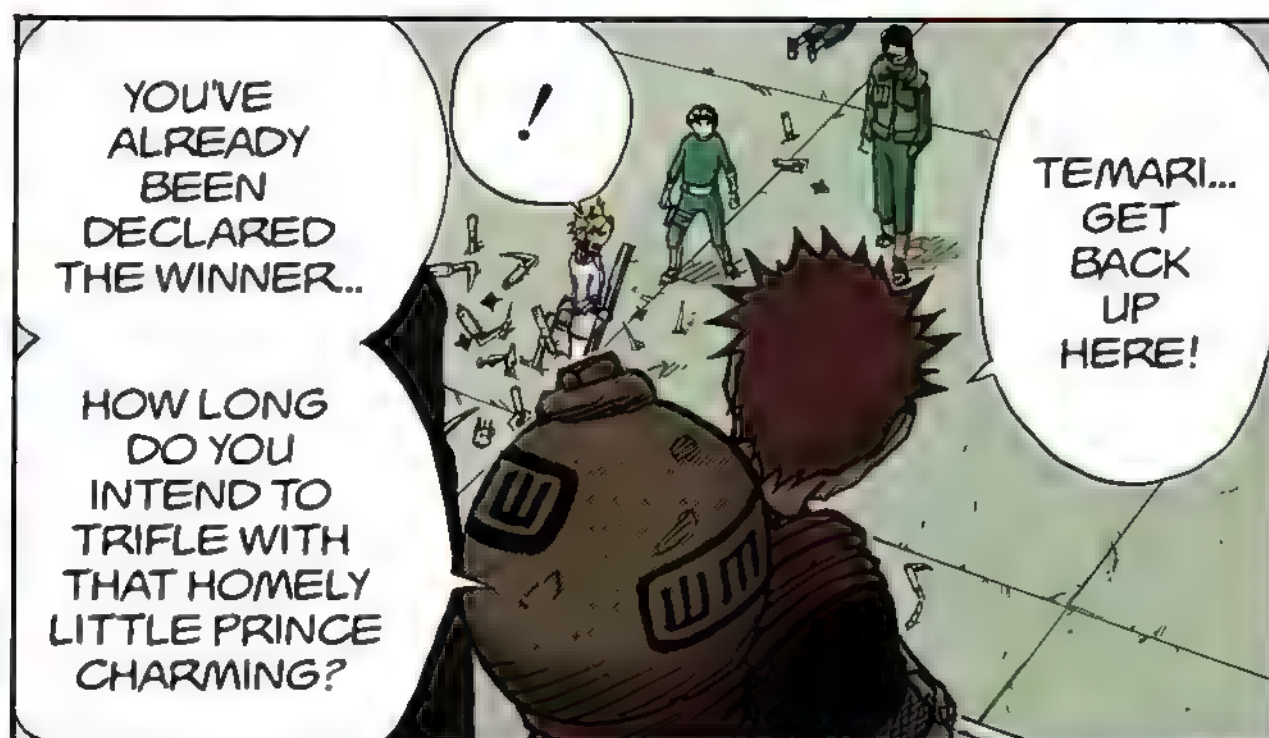
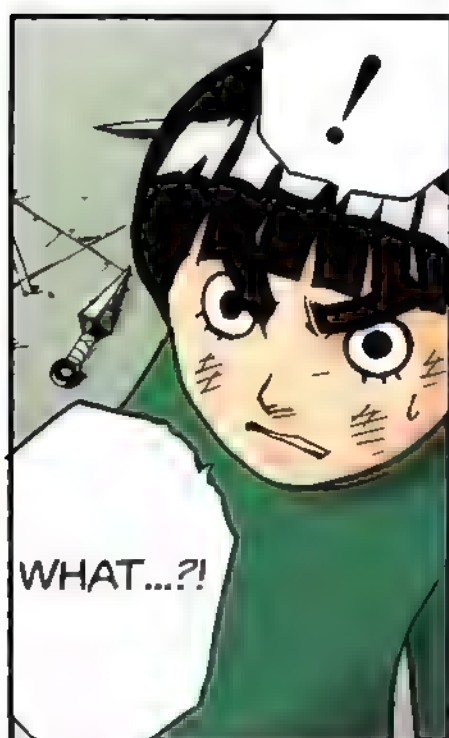
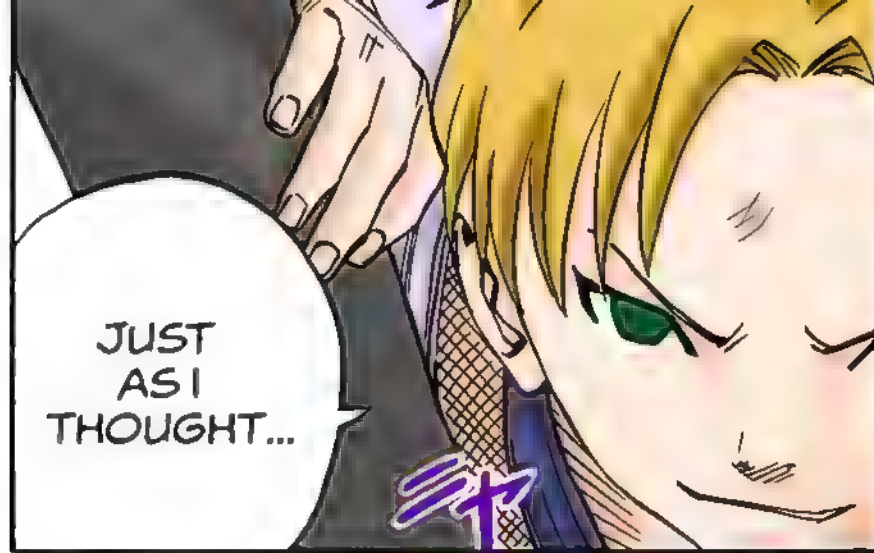


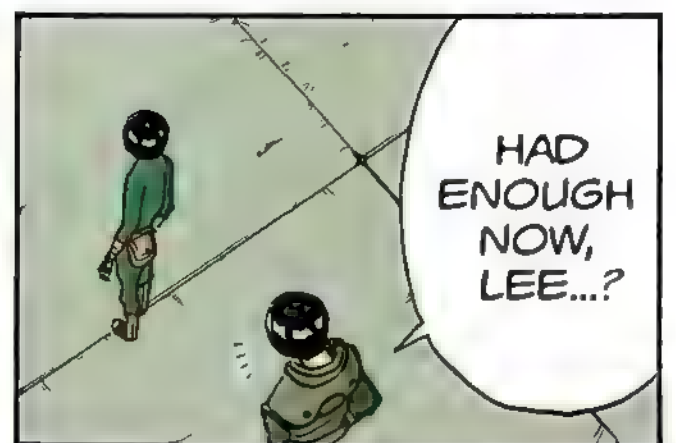
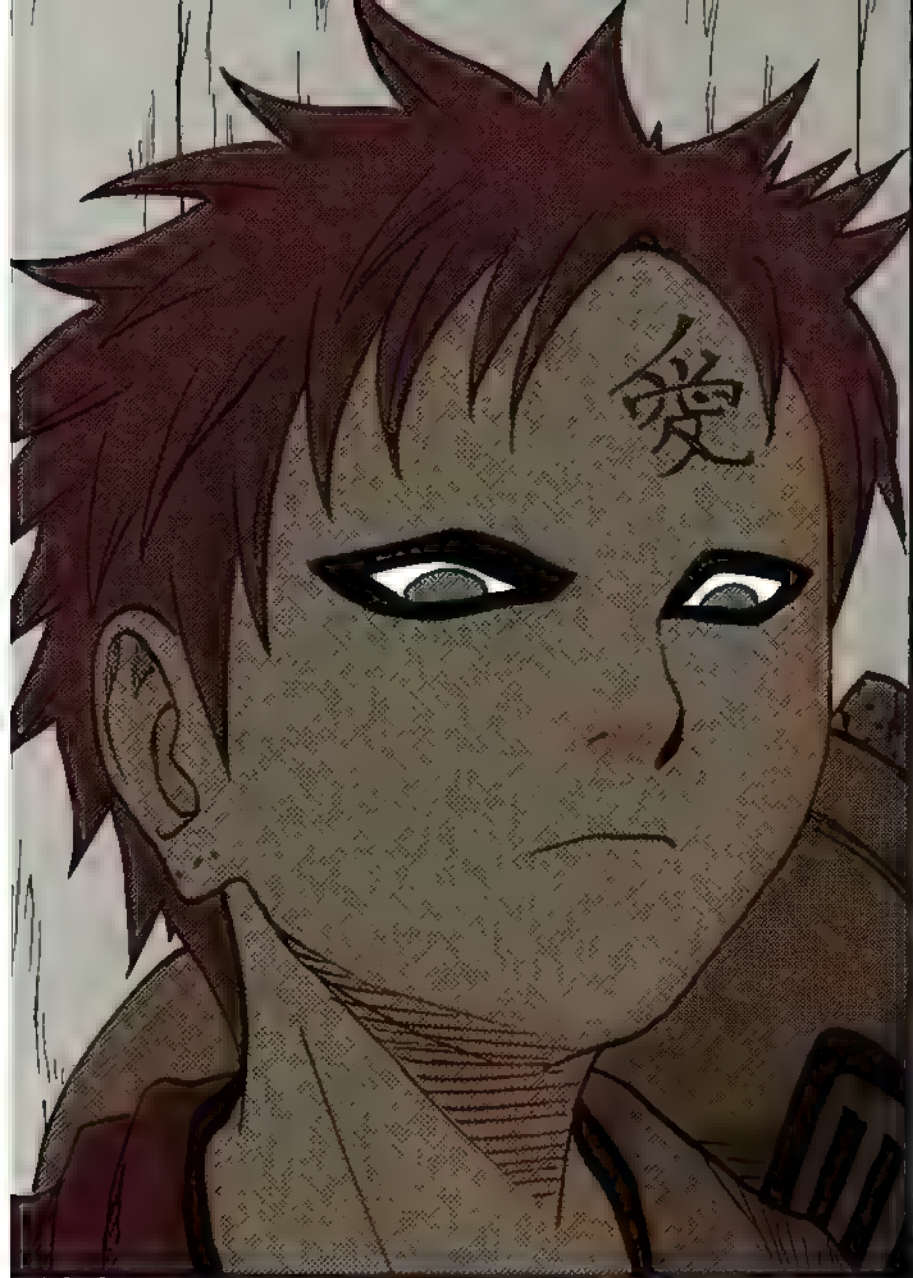
THE SIXTH ROUND MATCH

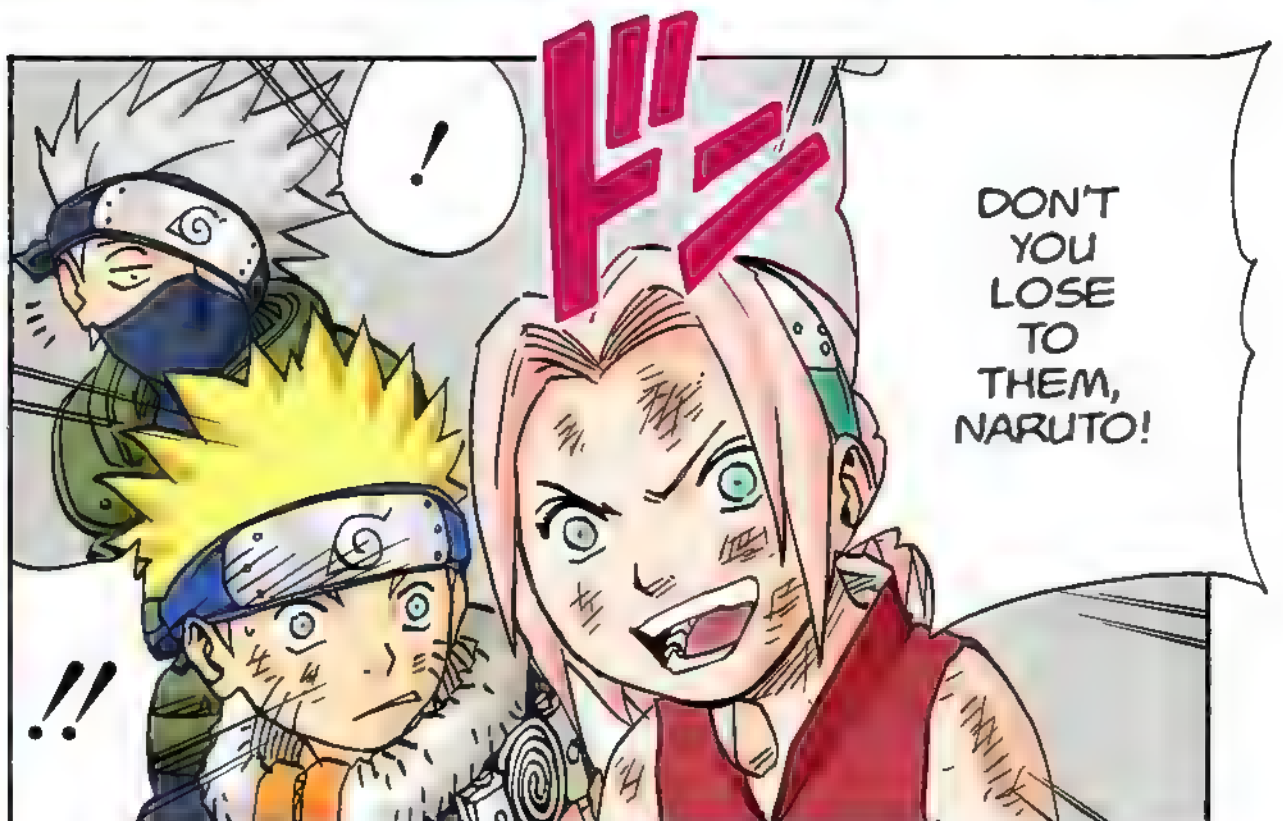
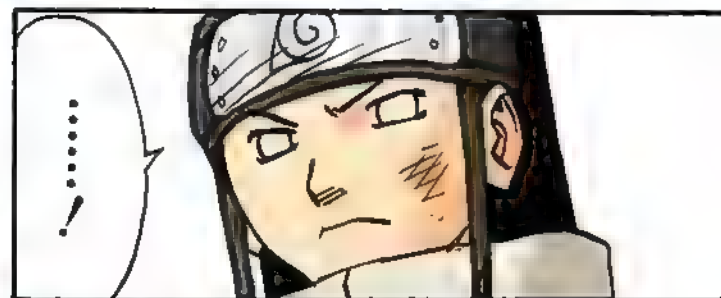
AND THEM!!

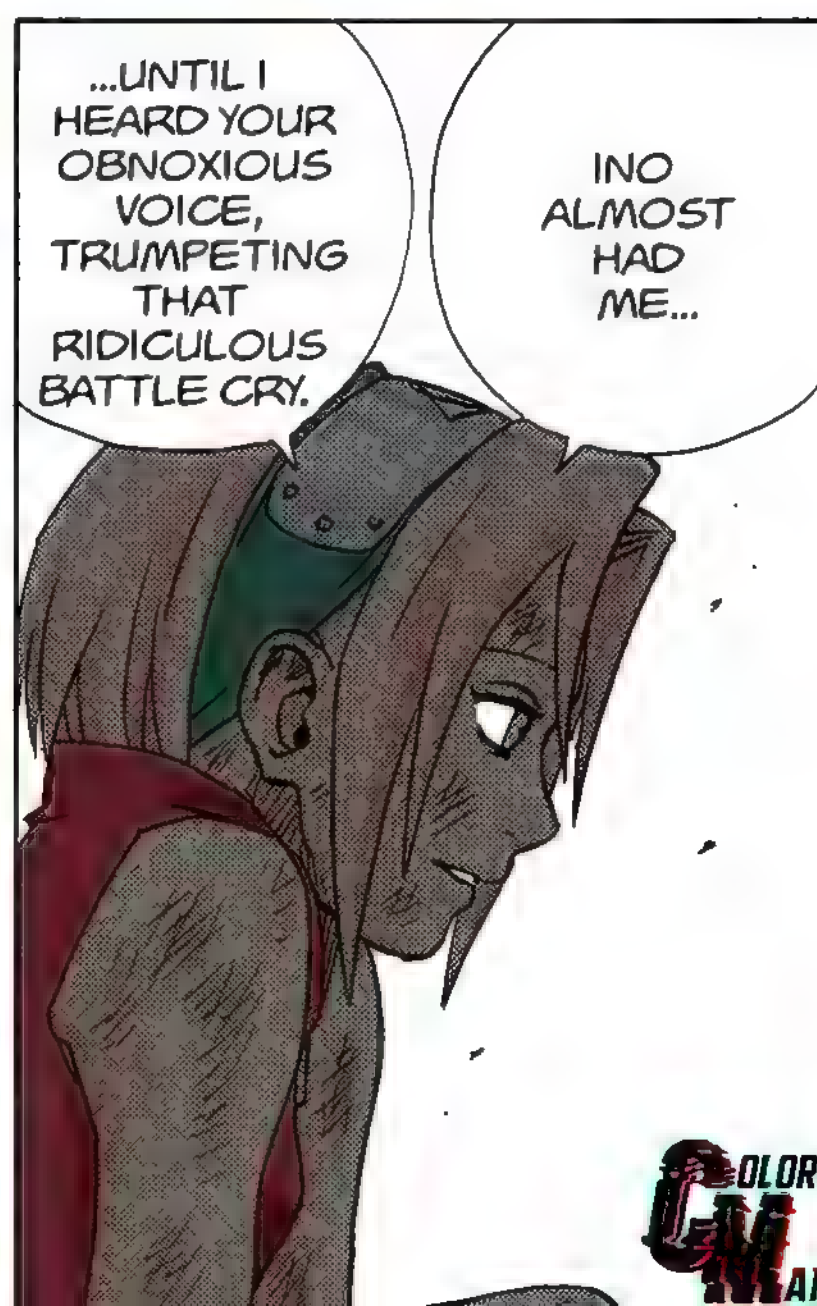
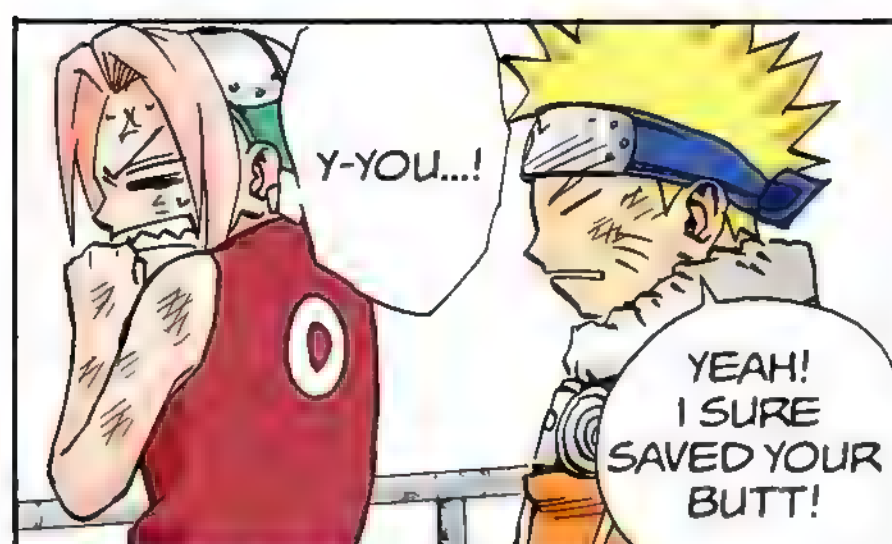
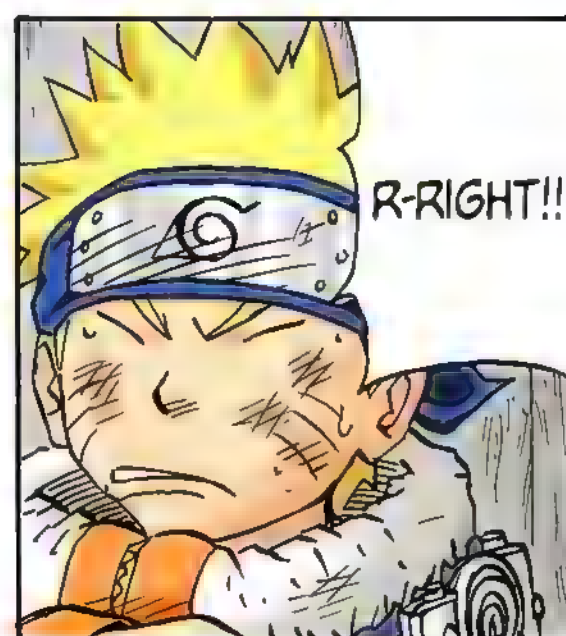
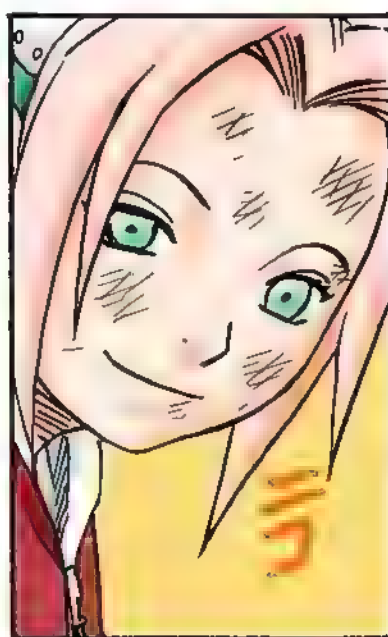


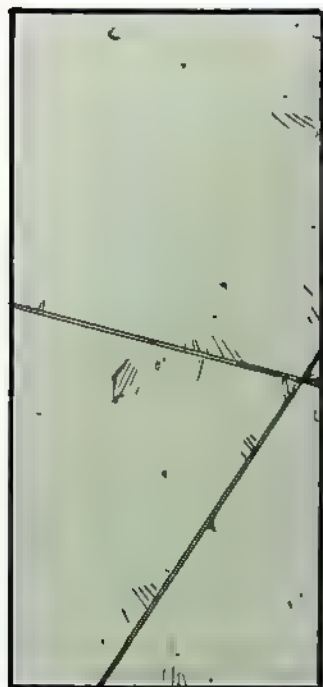
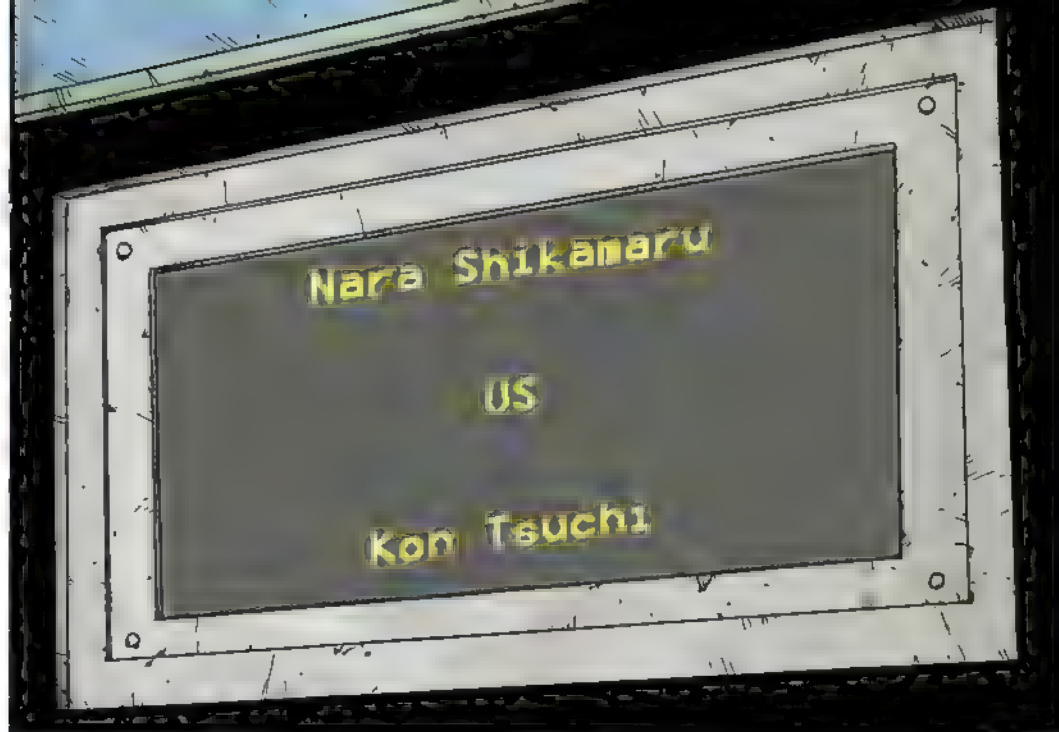
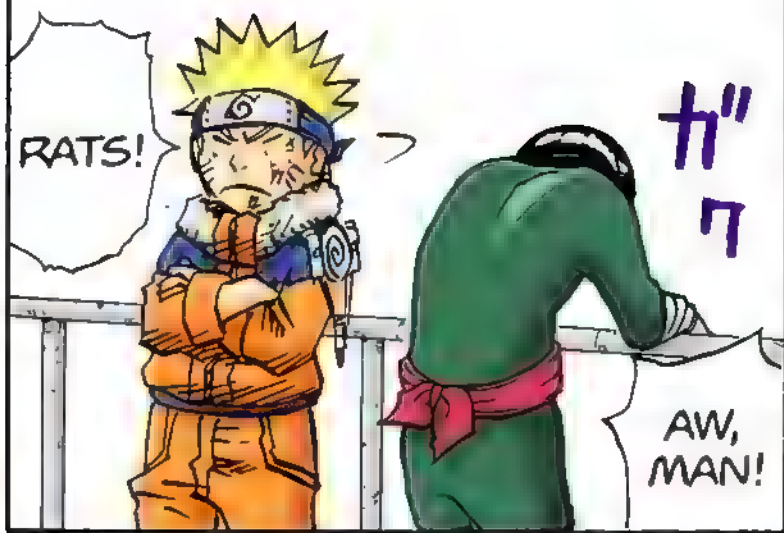


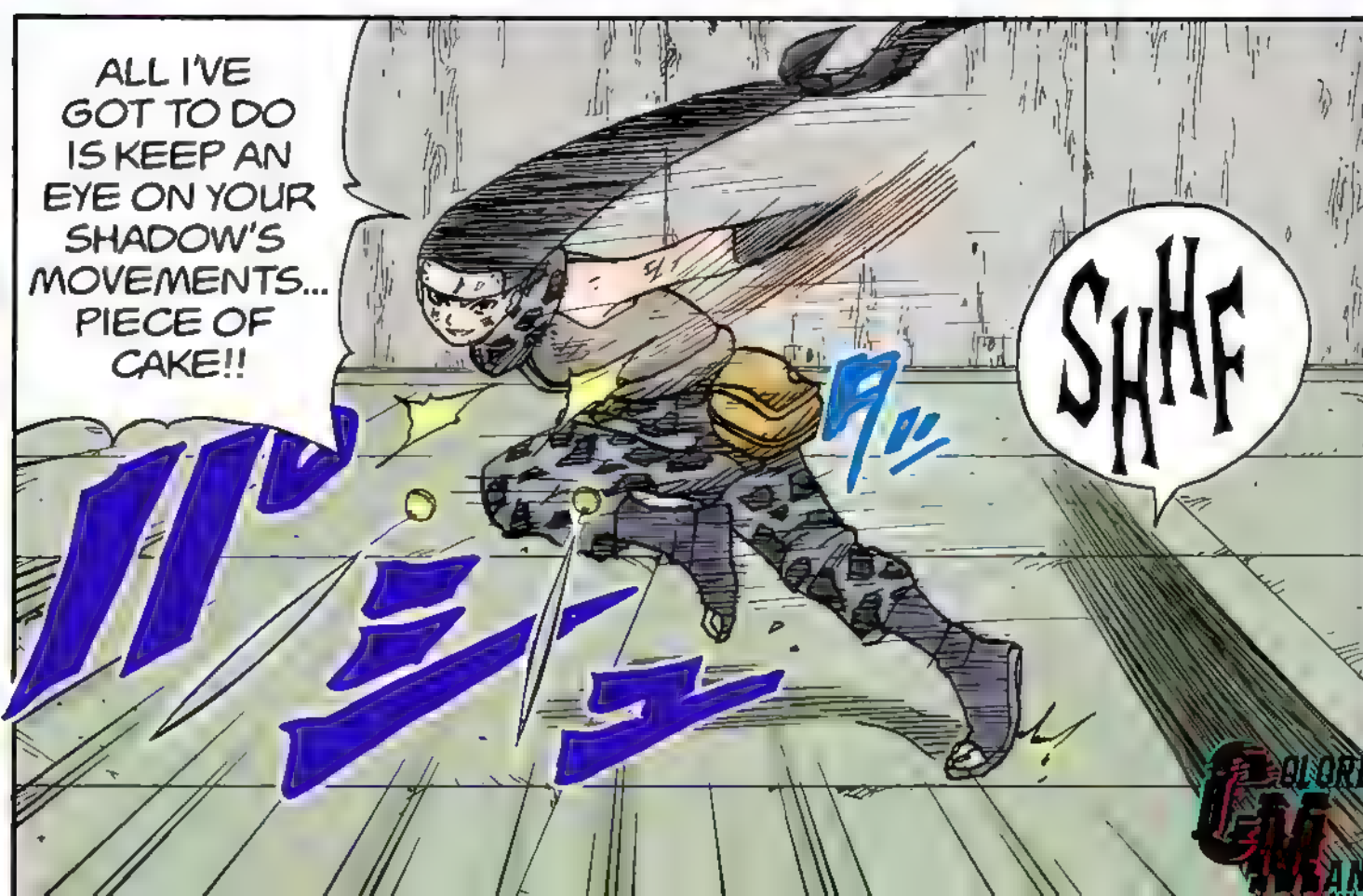
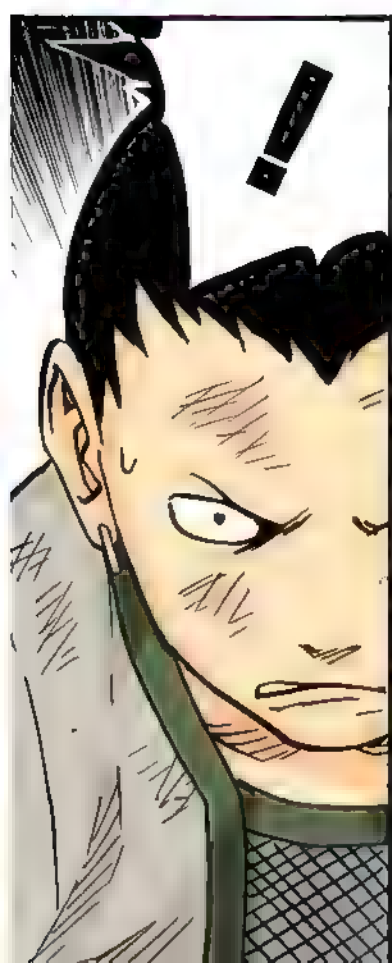
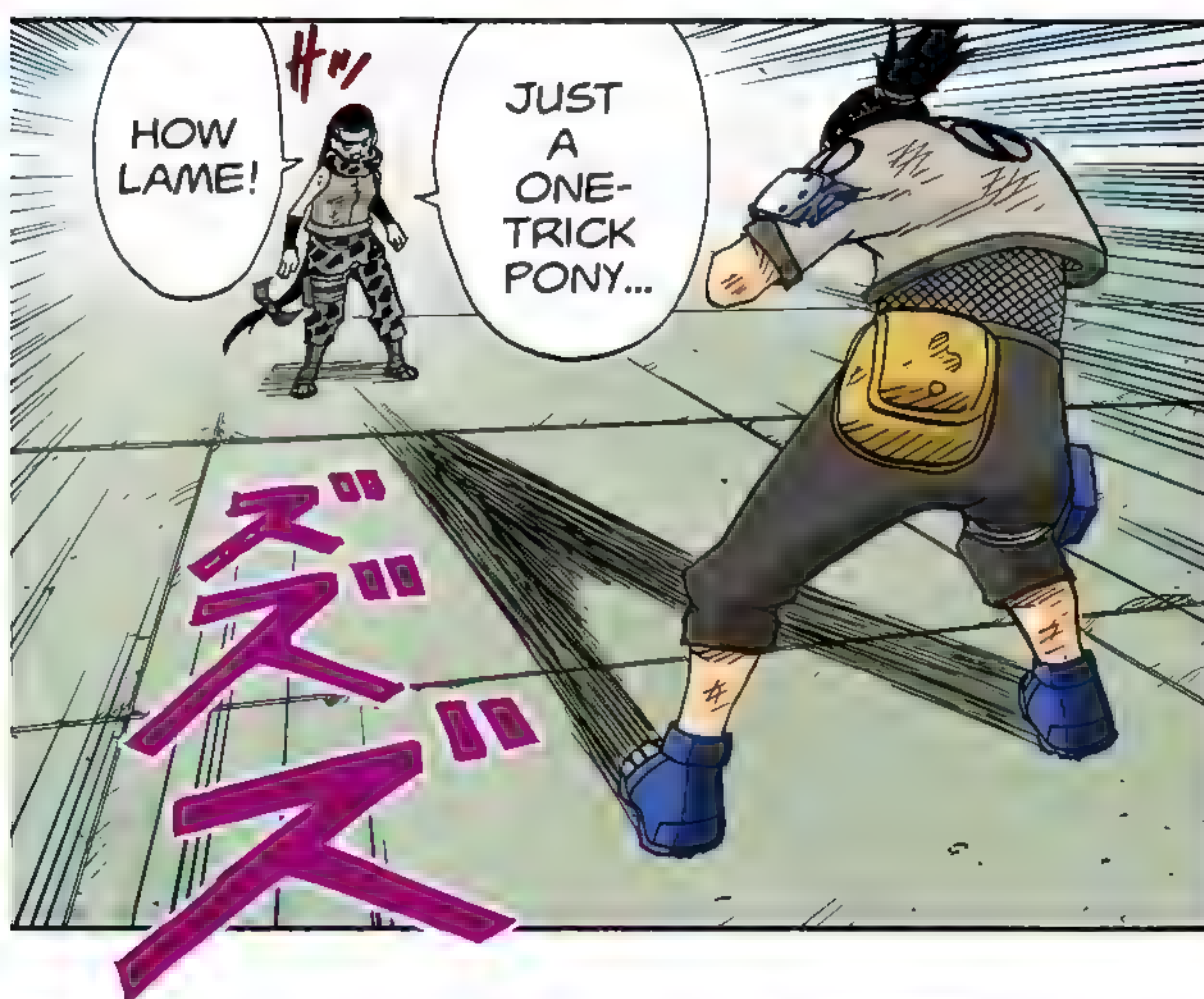


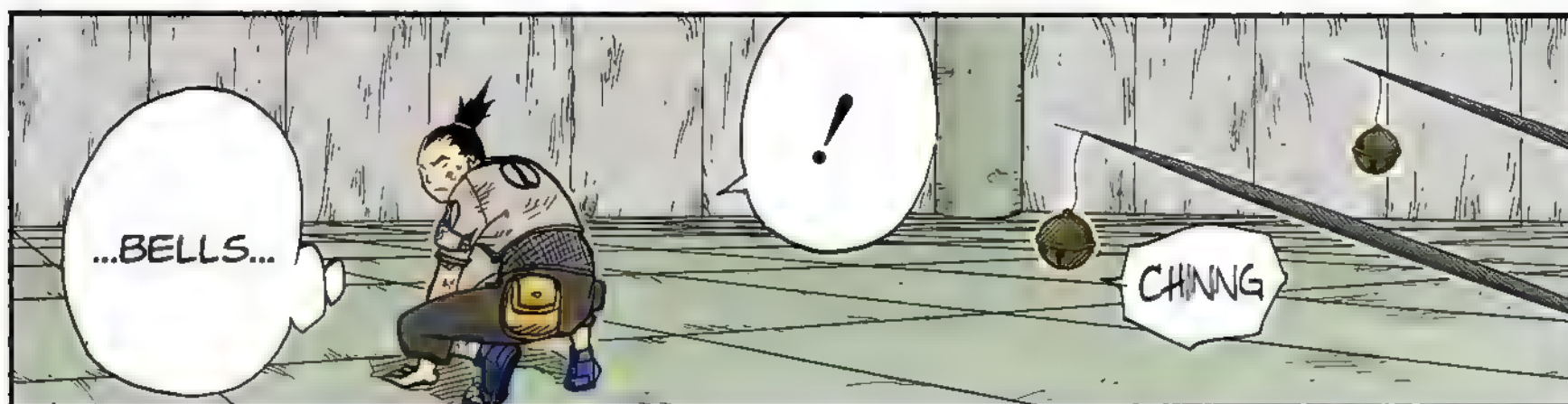


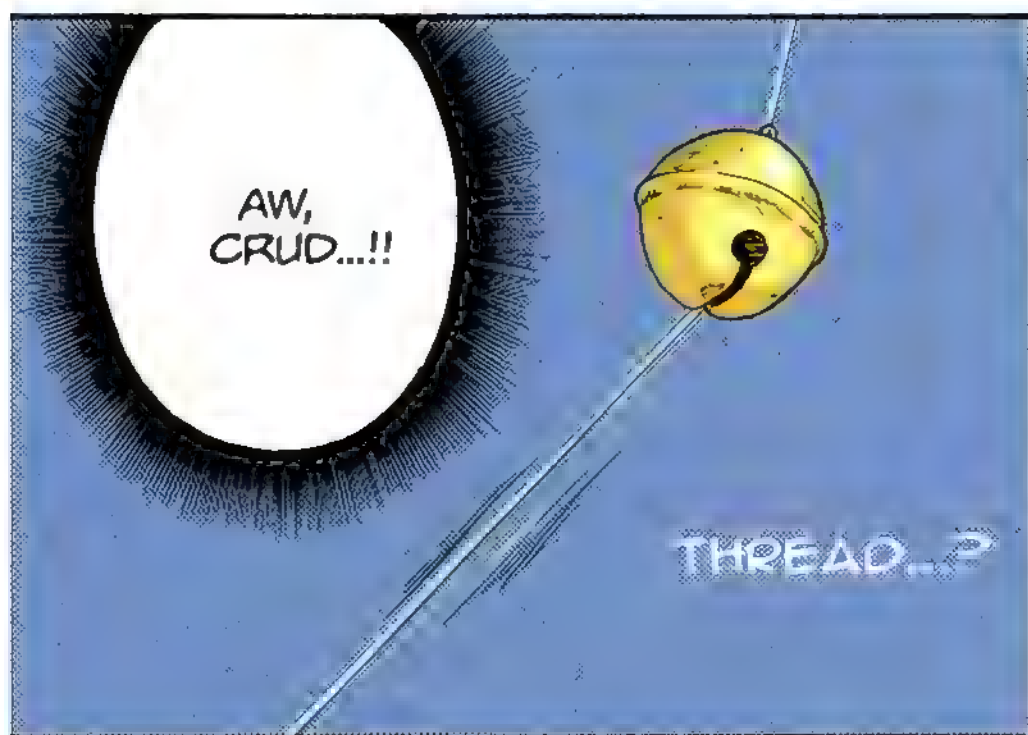
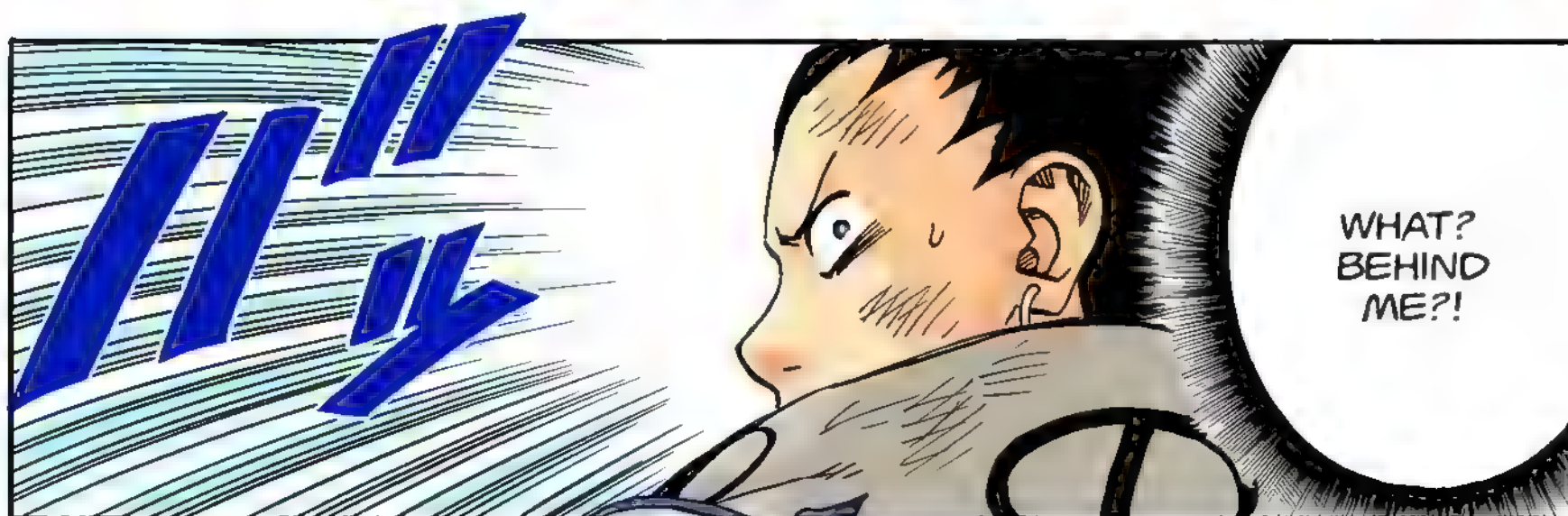
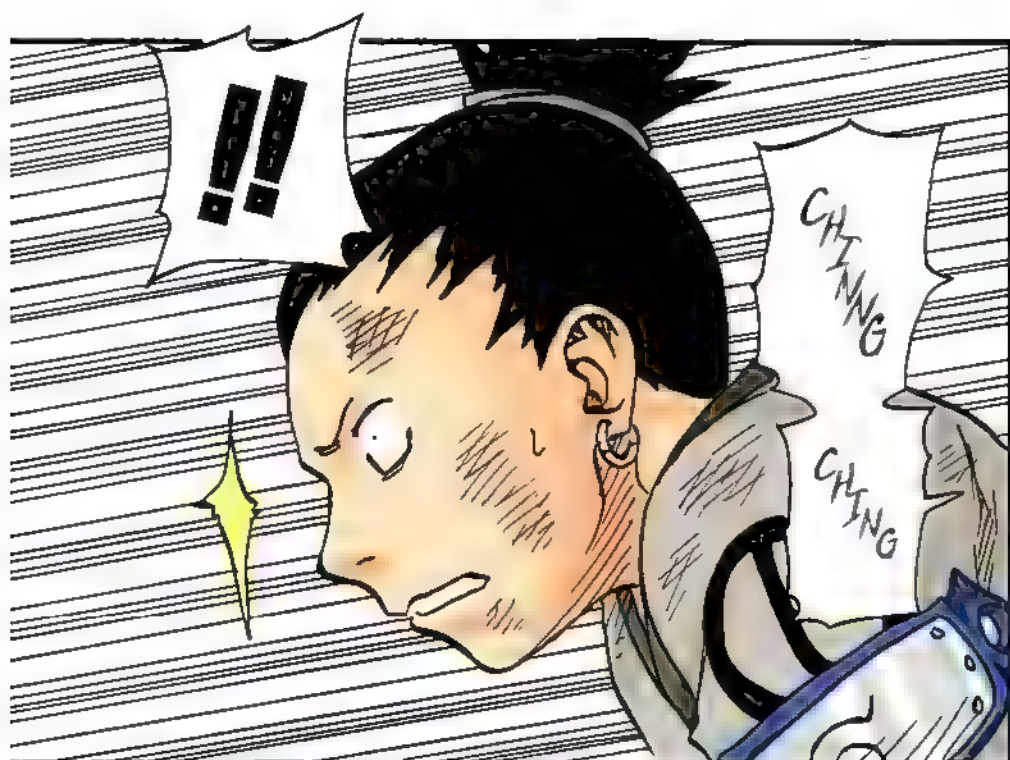


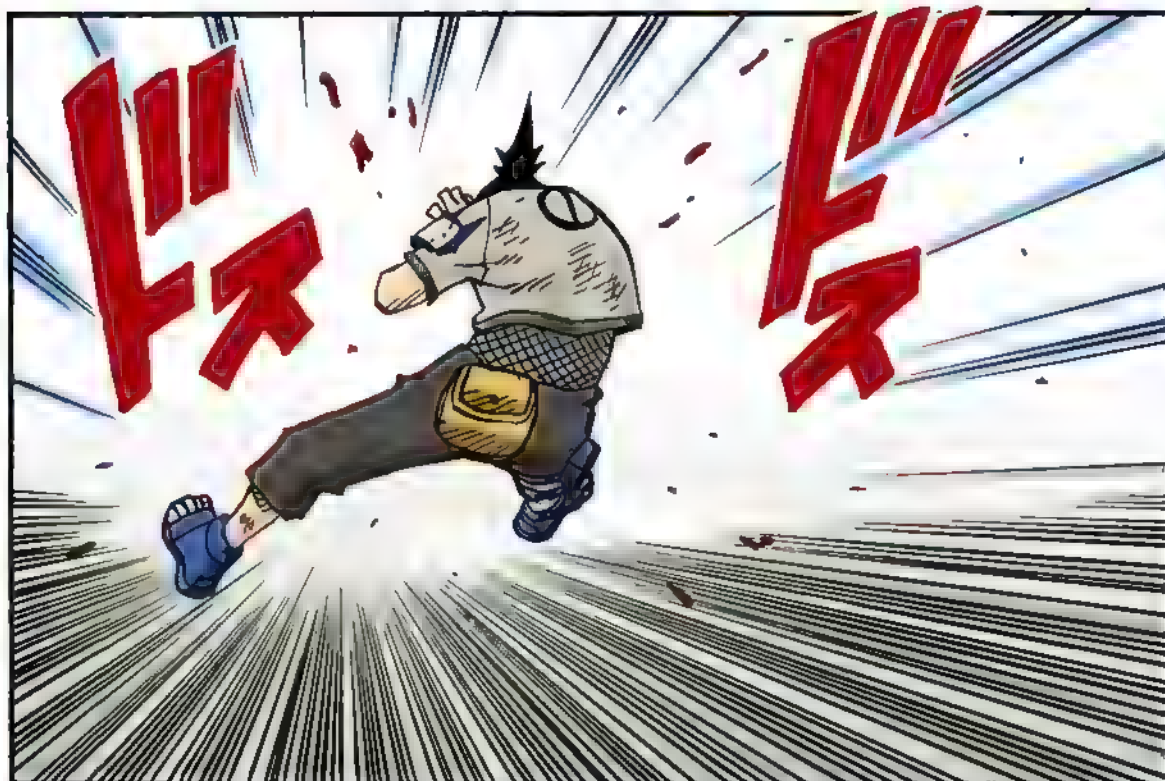


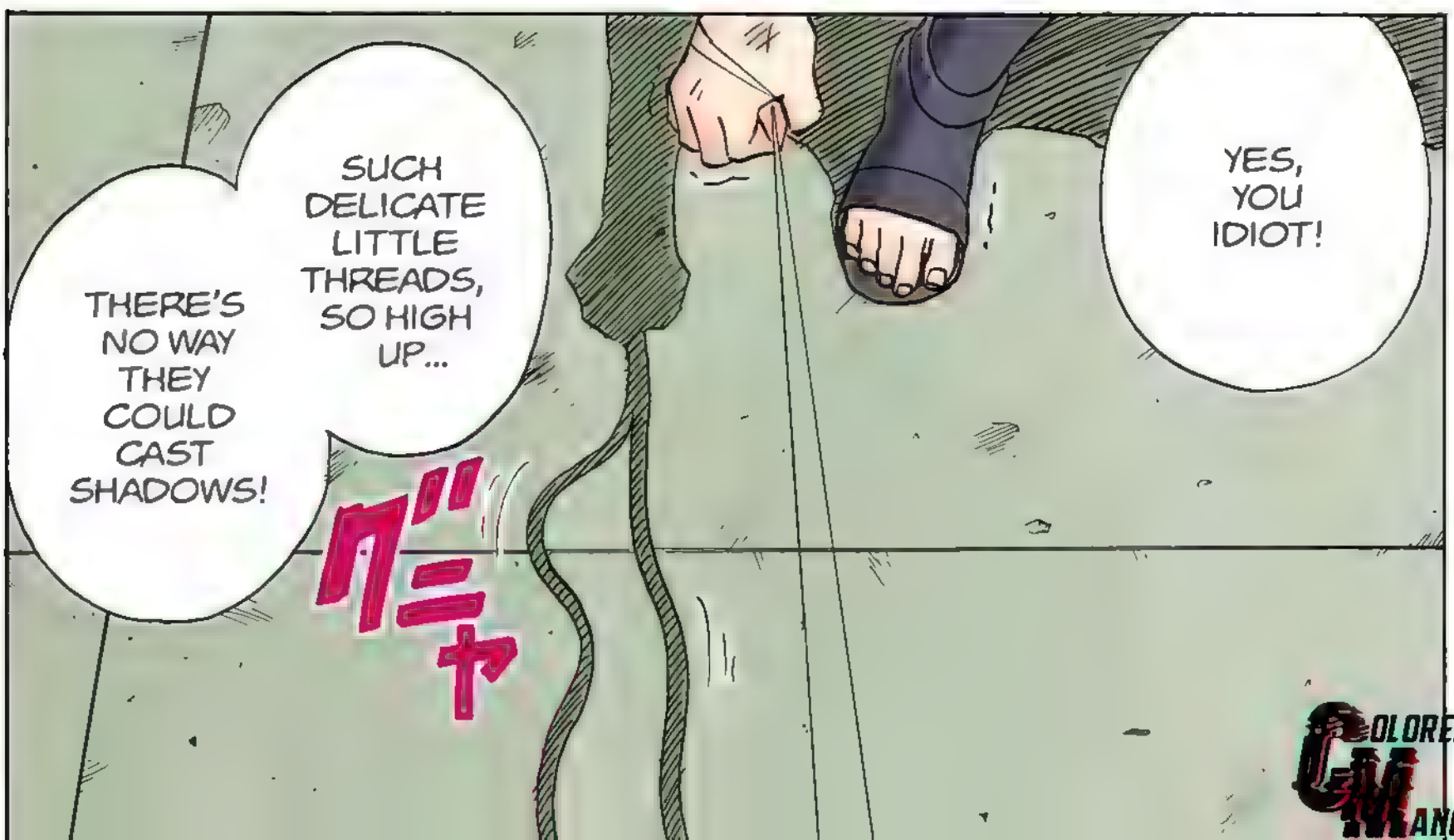
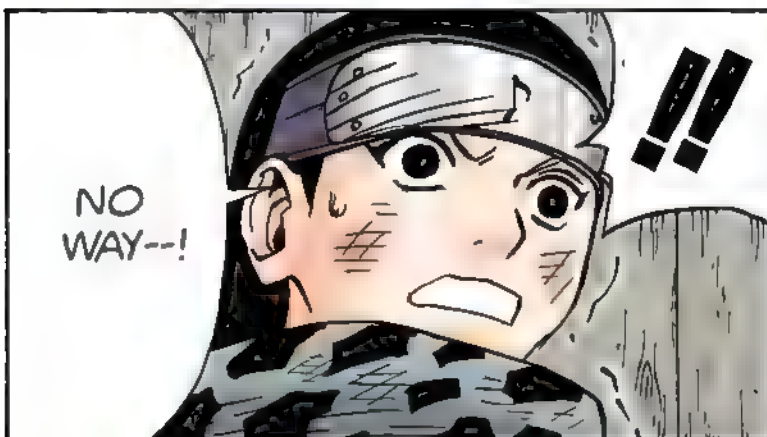
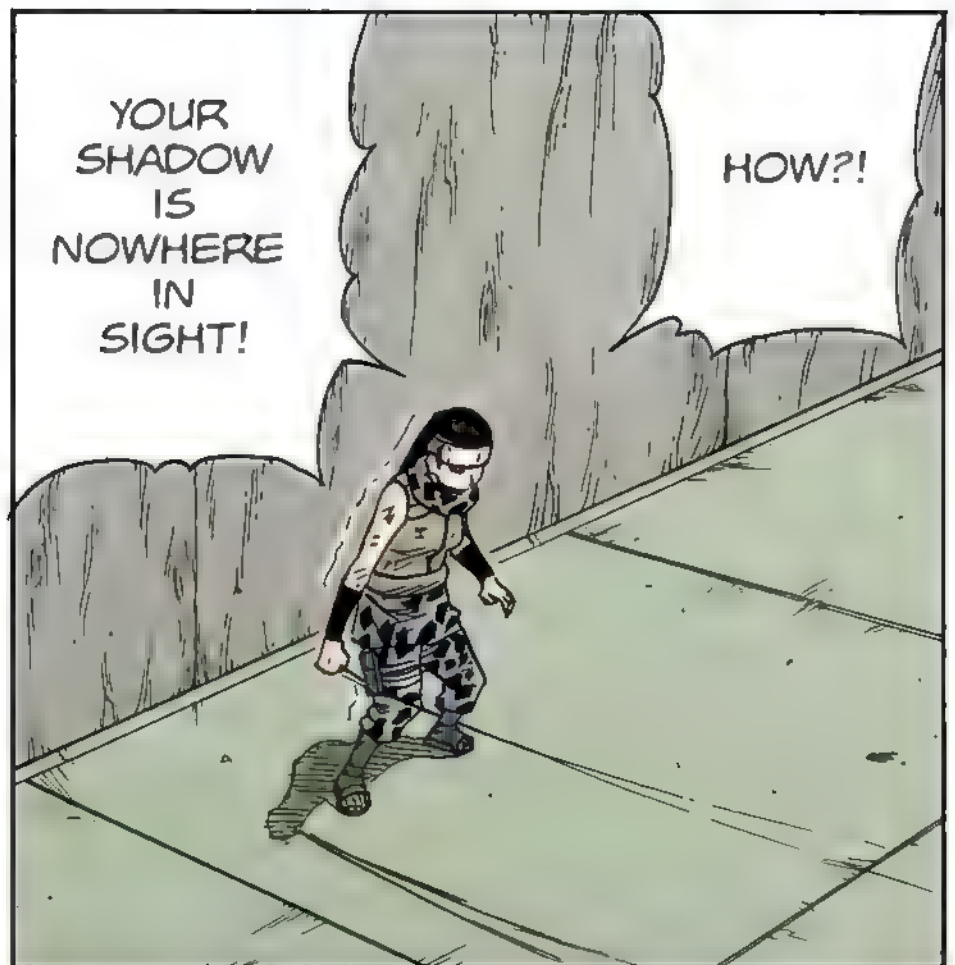
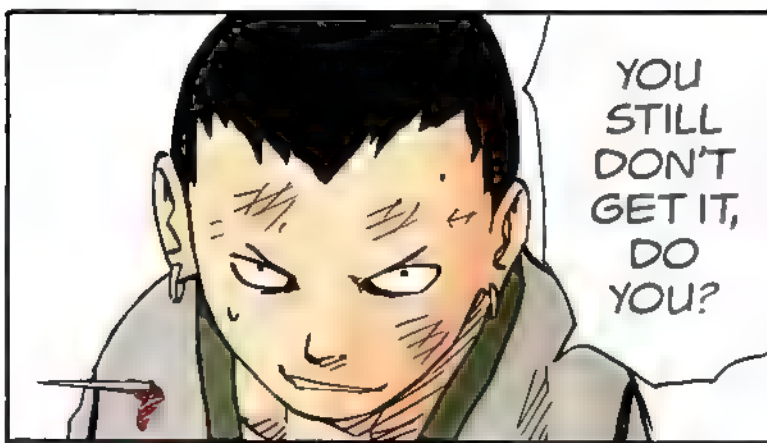
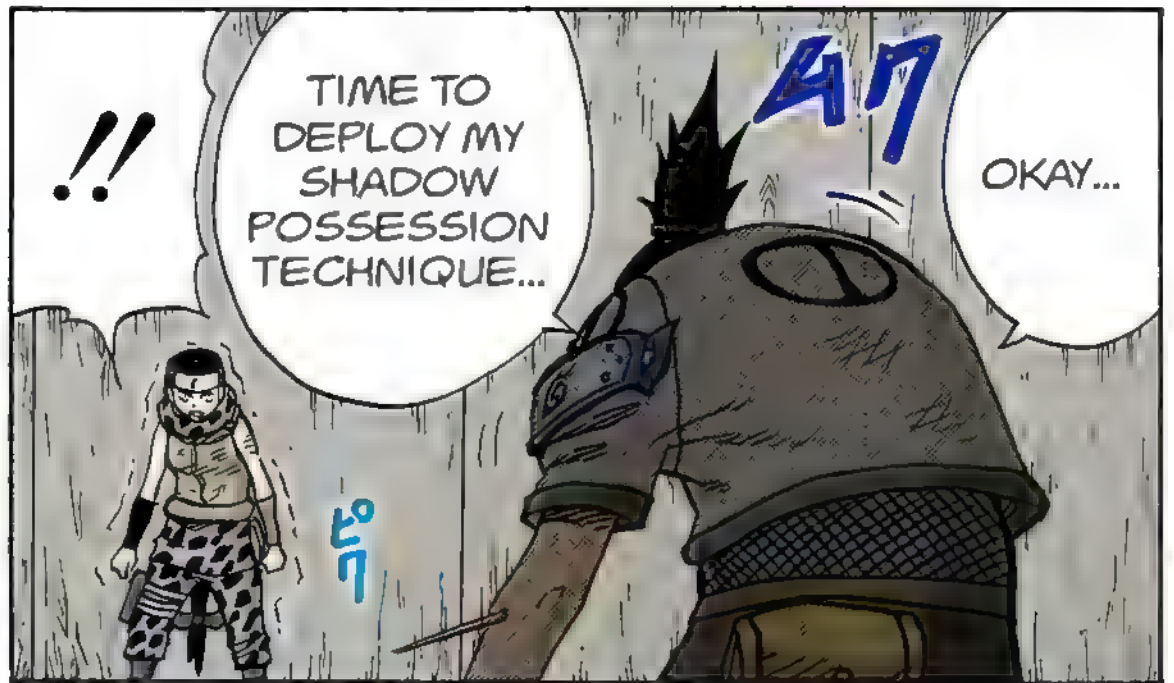
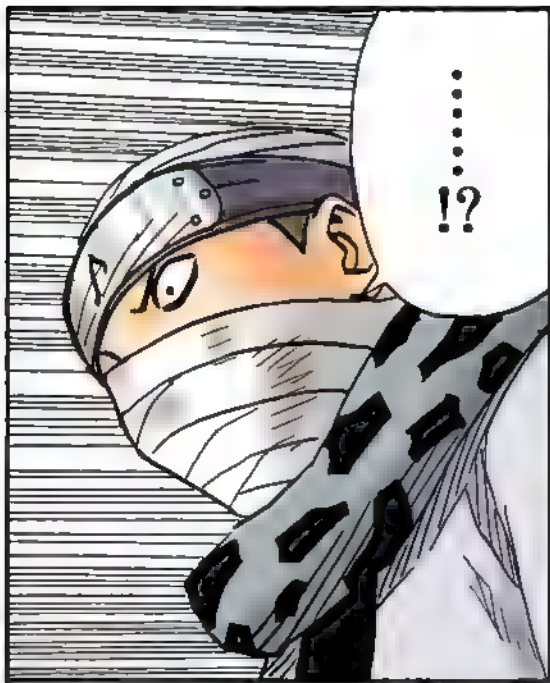


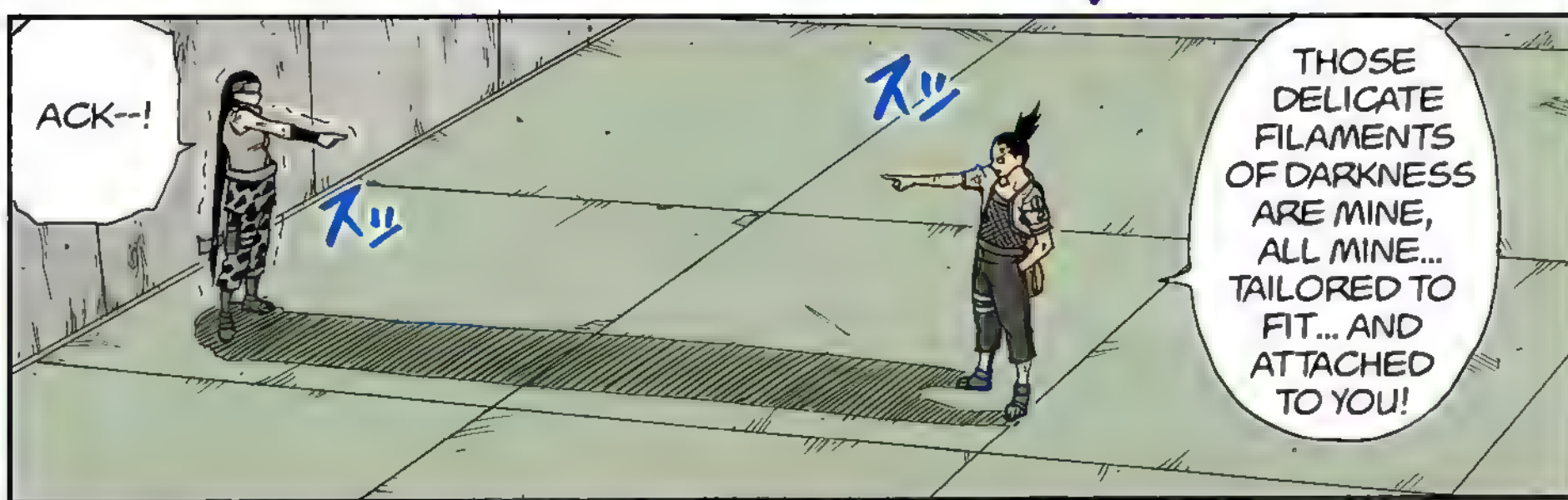


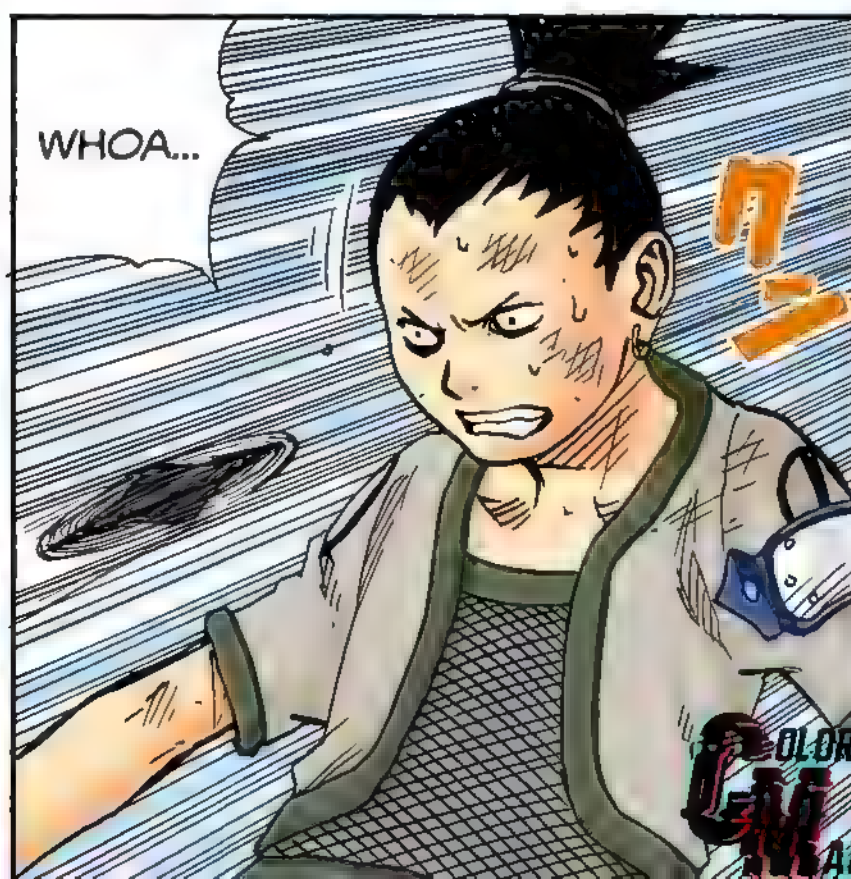
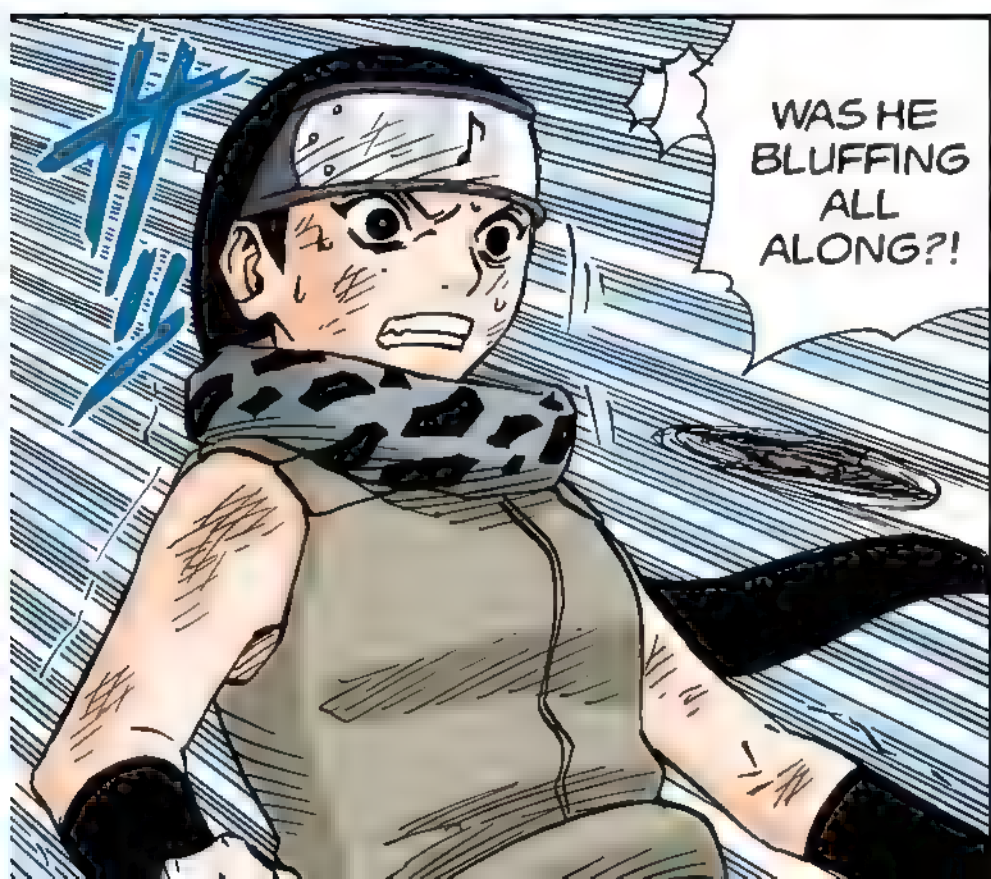
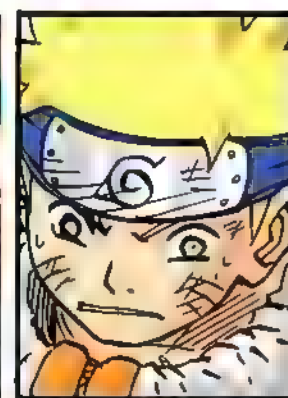
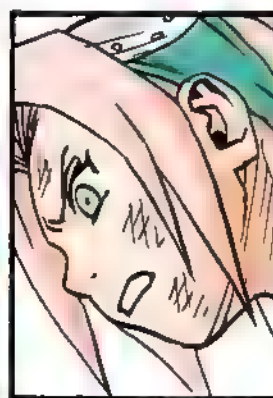
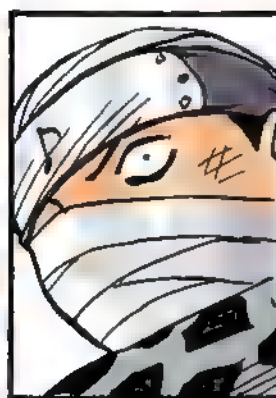
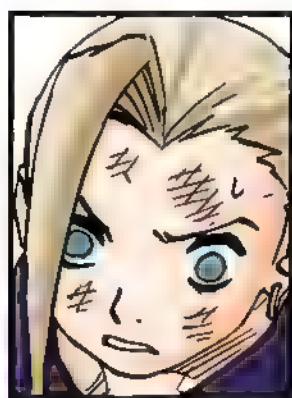


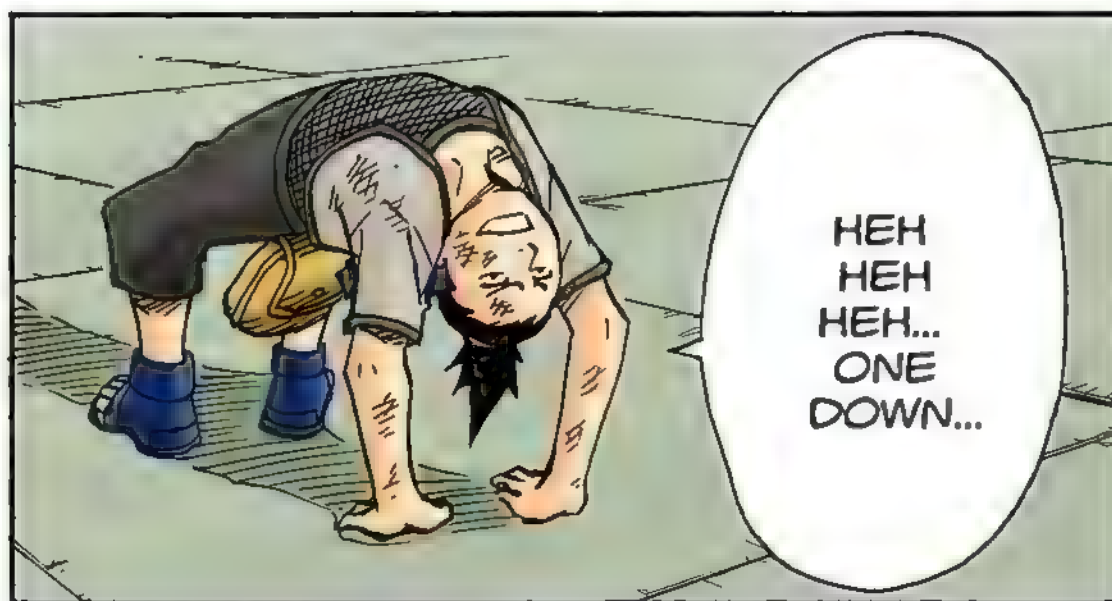
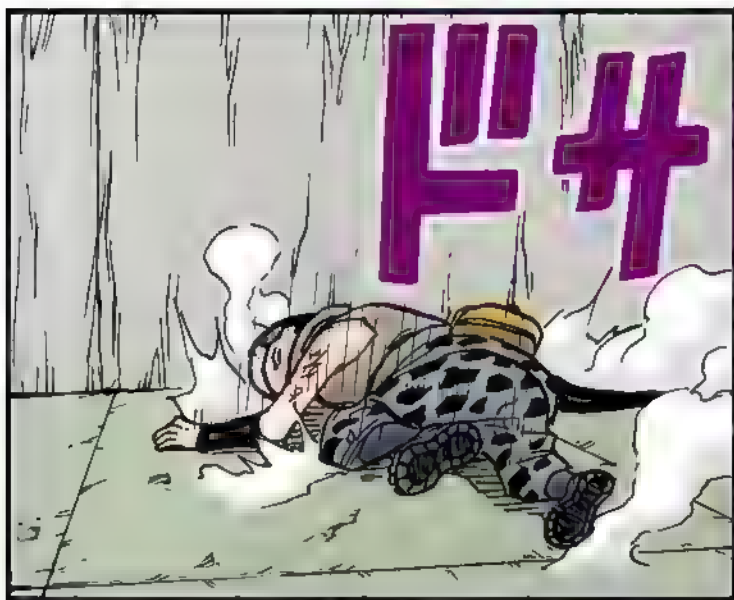
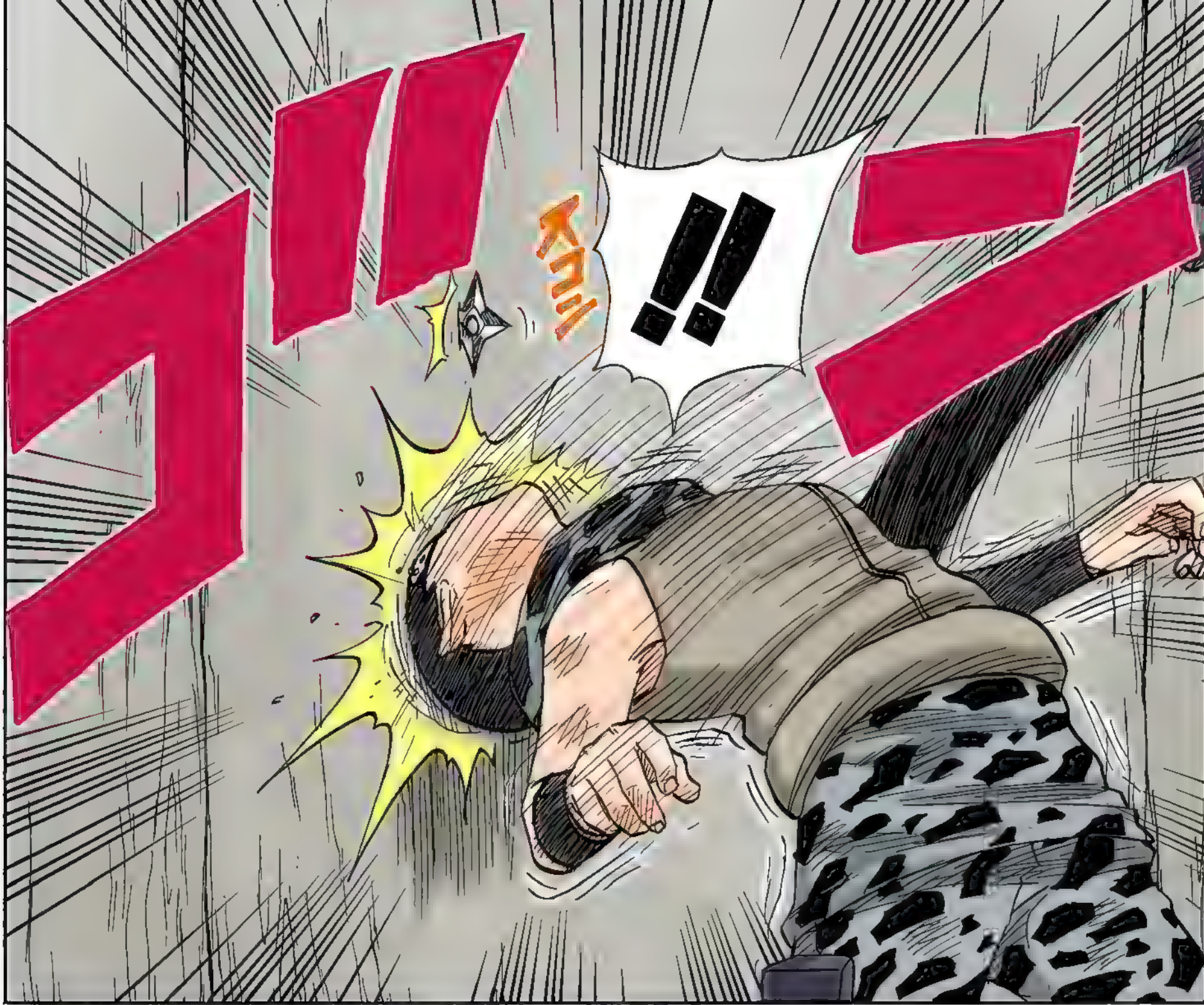


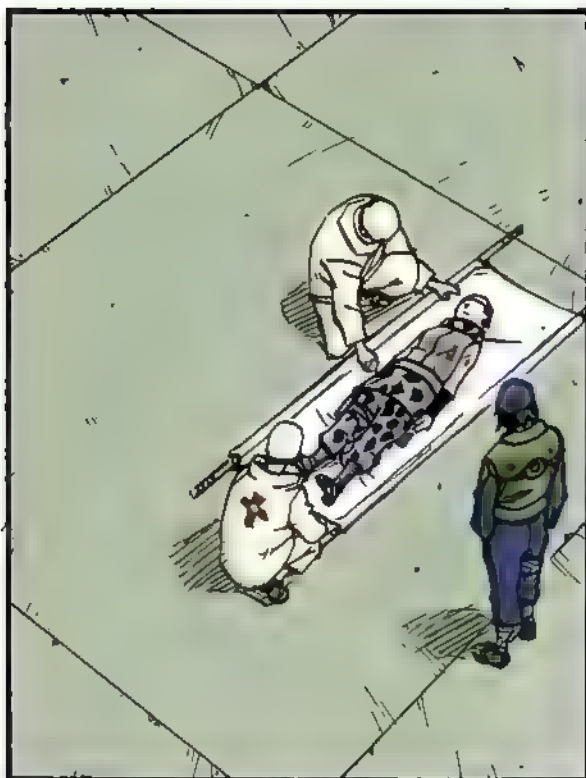
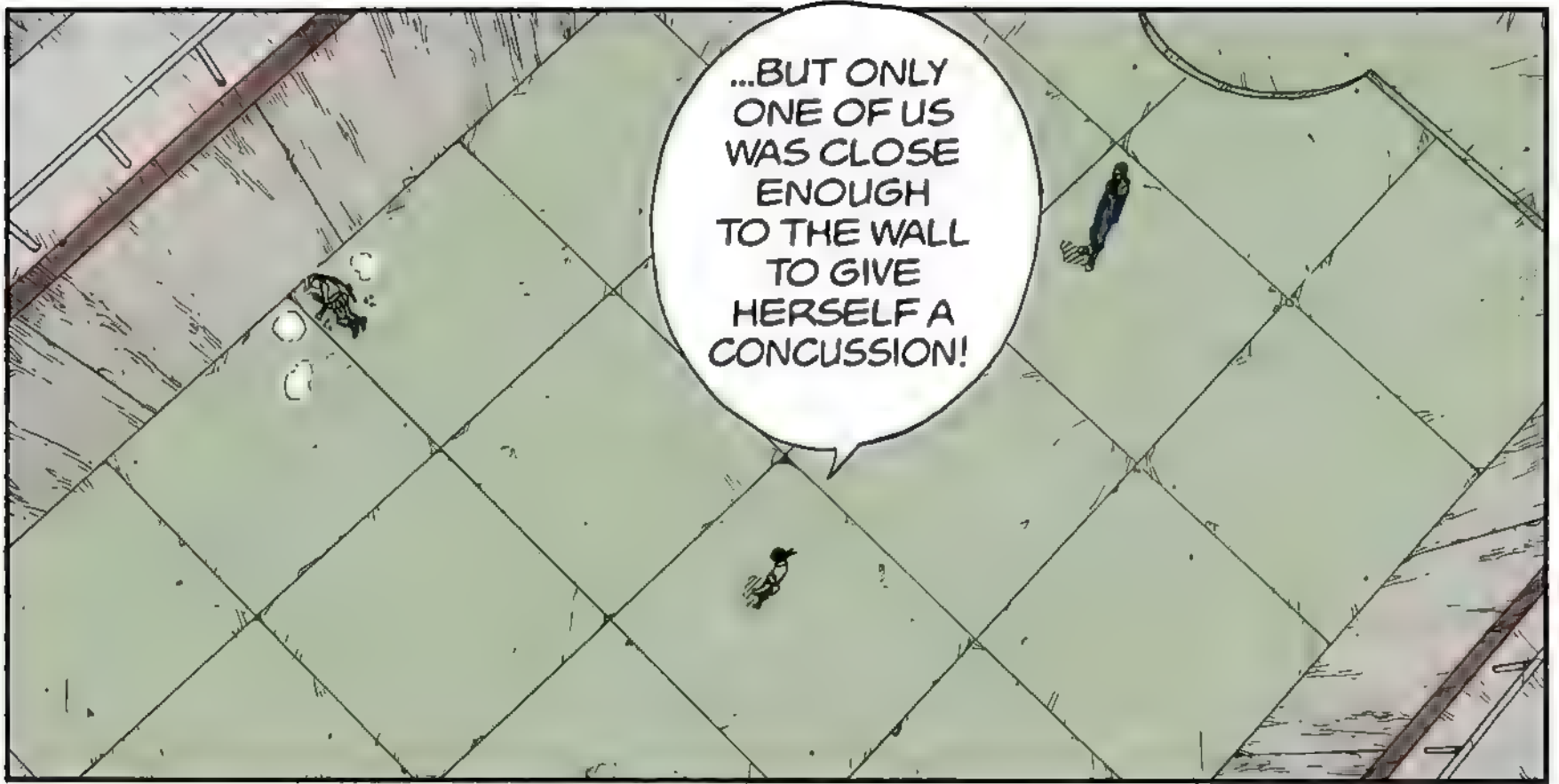


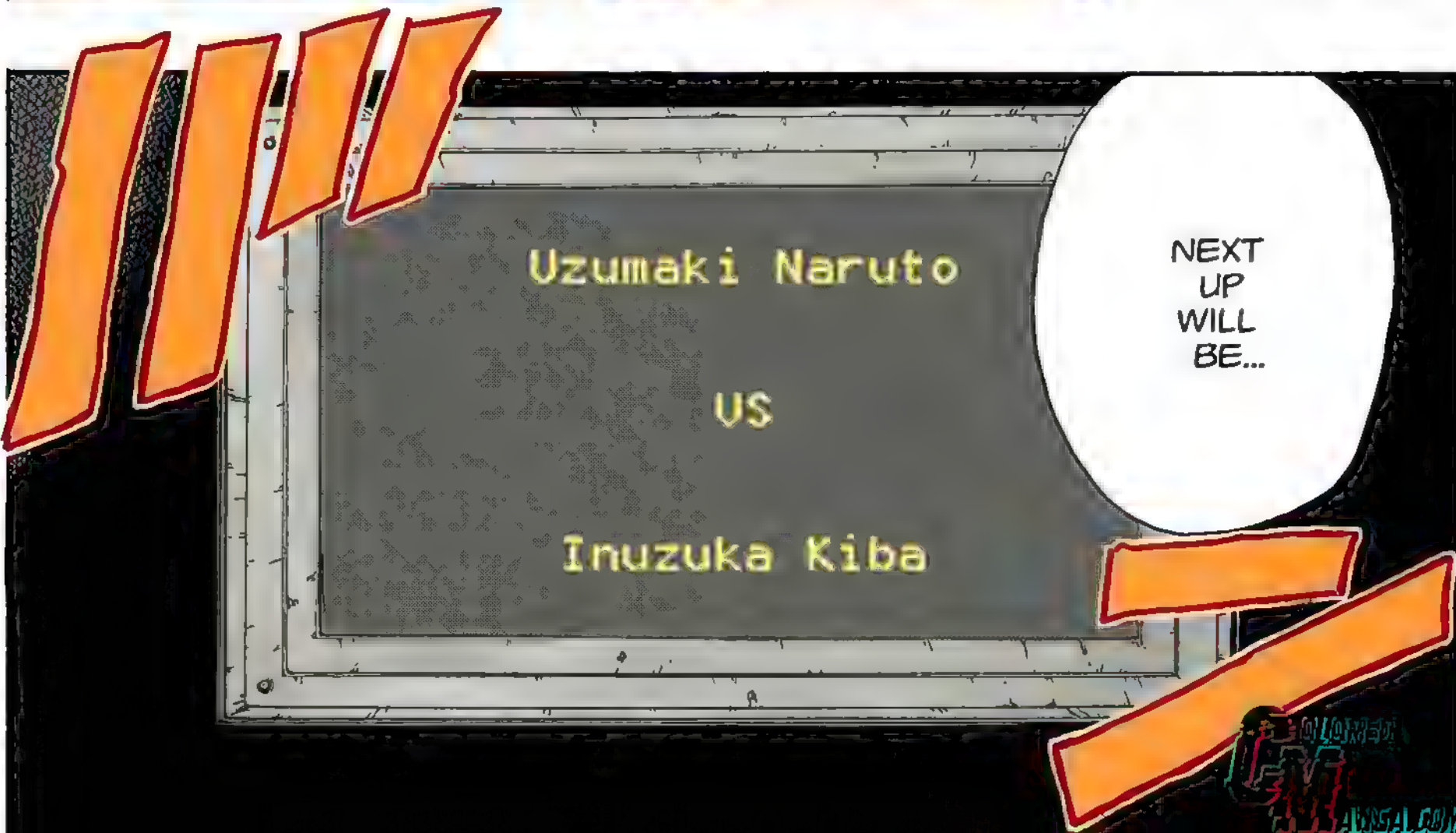
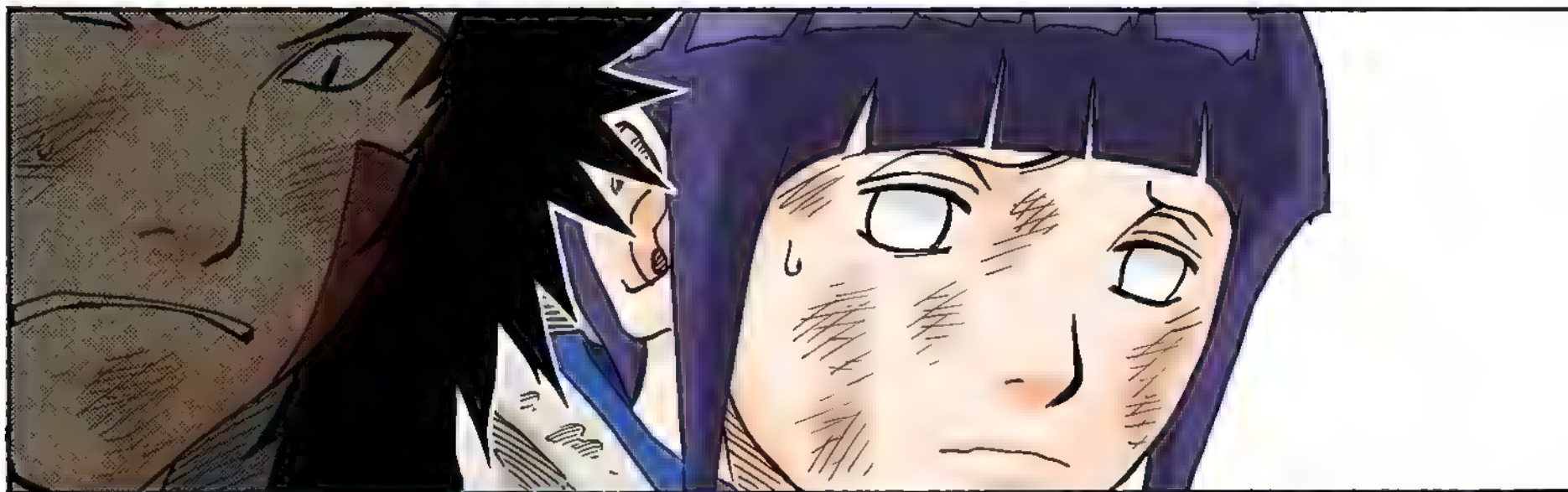


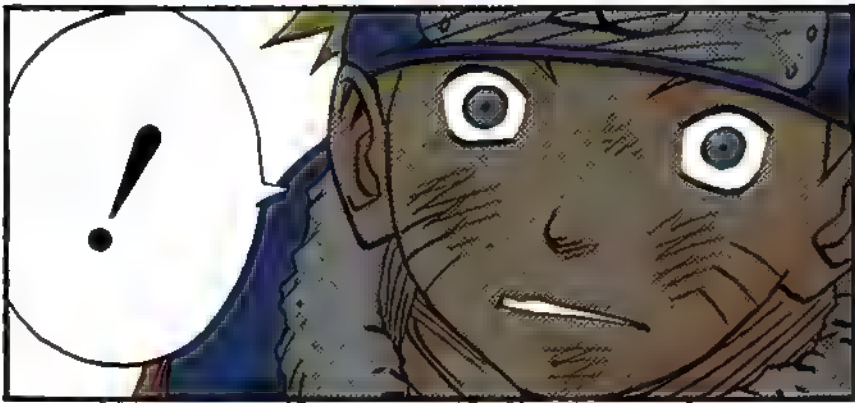












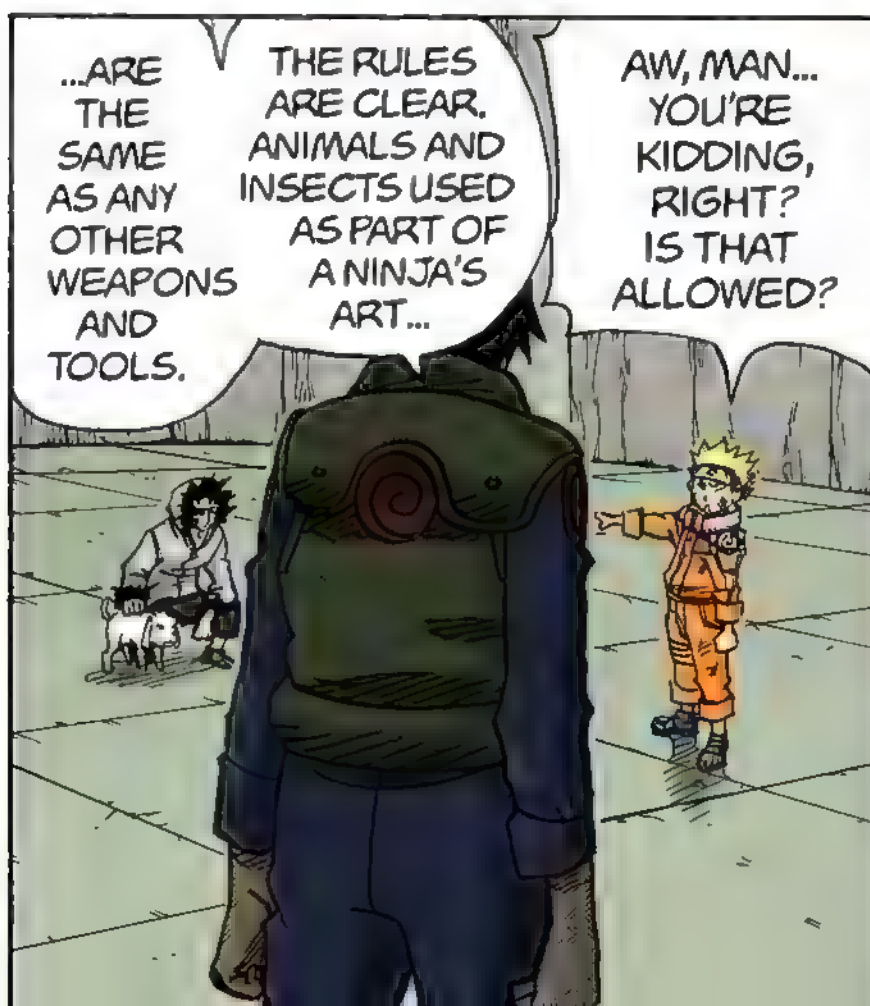
ナンバー

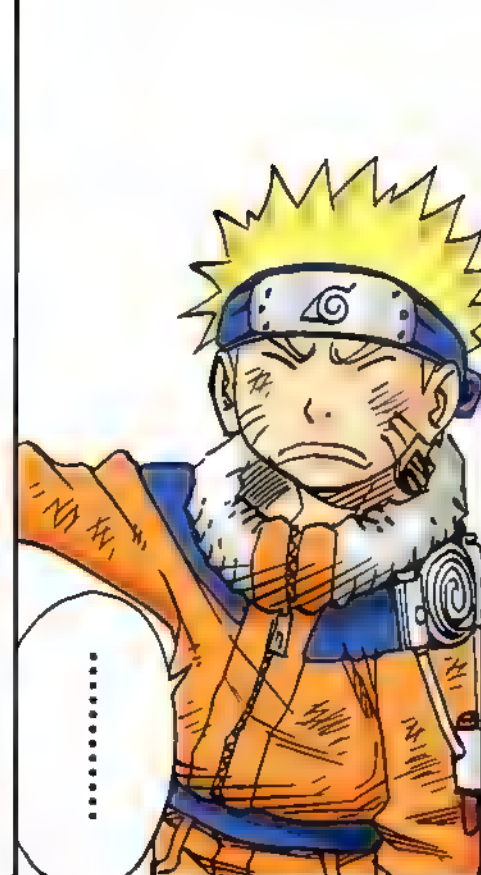
75

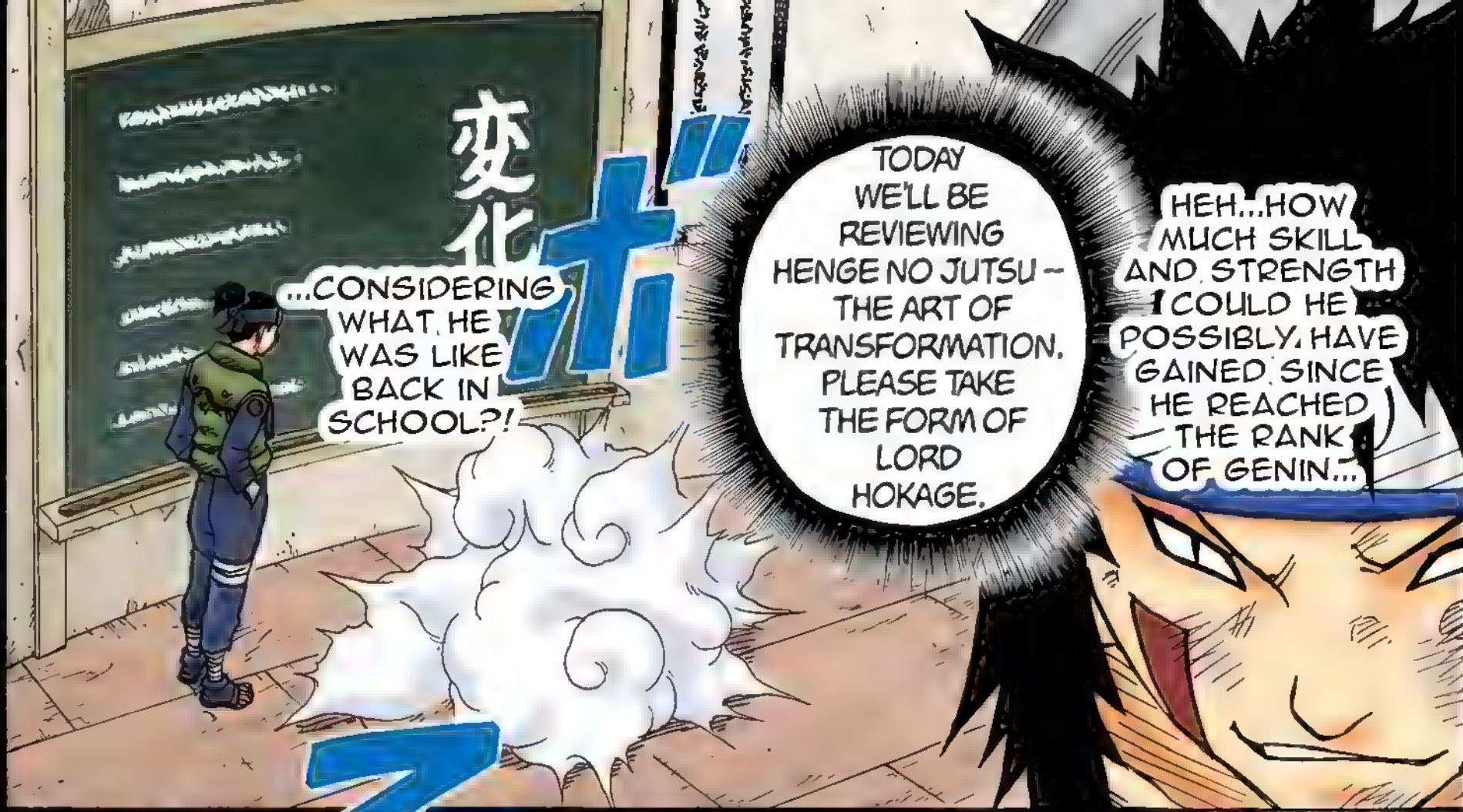


NARUTO'S
COMING OF AGE!!

新あ
な



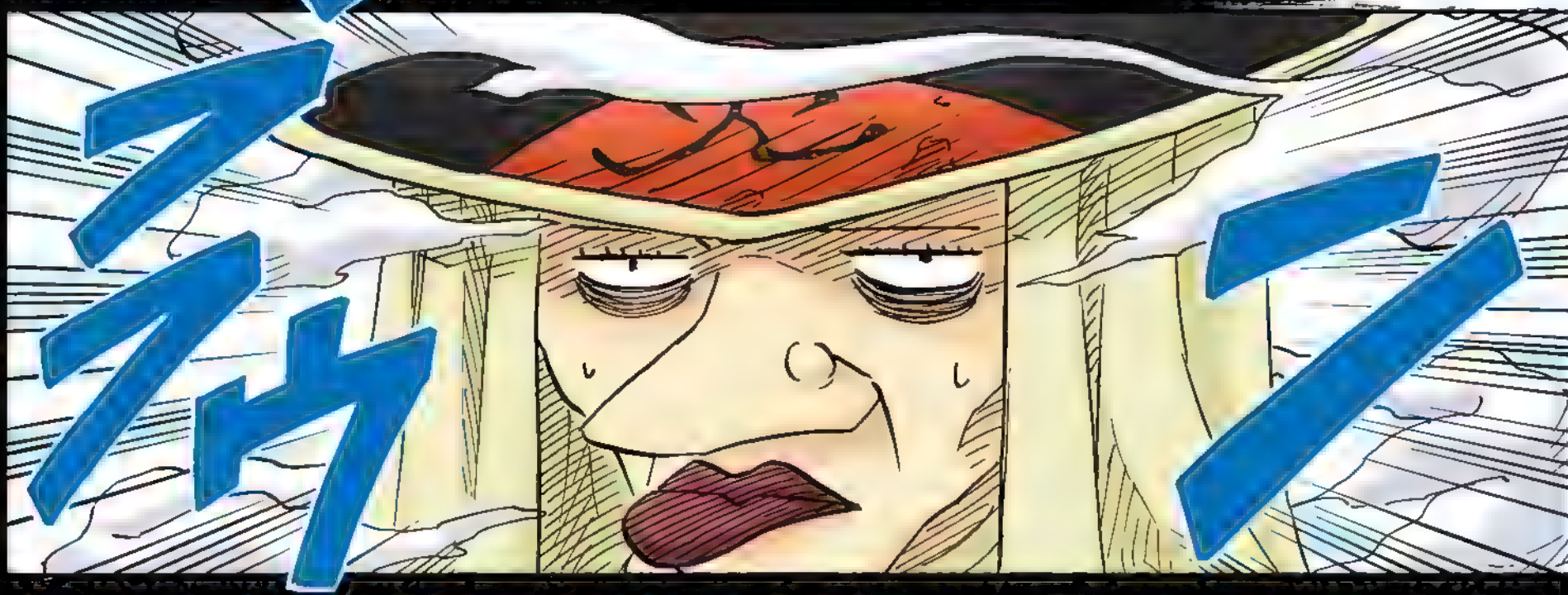




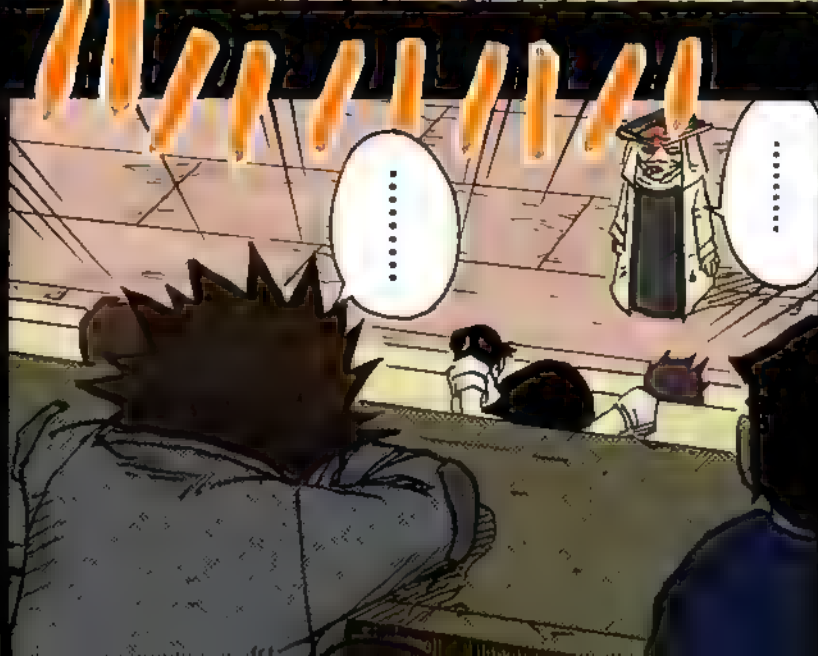
...CONSIDERING
WHAT HE
WAS LIKE
BACK IN
SCHOOL?!

TODAY
WE'LL BE
REVIEWING
HENG NO JUTSU --
THE ART OF
TRANSFORMATION.
PLEASE TAKE
THE FORM OF
LORD
HOKAGE.

HEH...HOW
MUCH SKILL
AND STRENGTH
I COULD HE
POSSIBLY HAVE
GAINED SINCE
HE REACHED
THE RANK
OF GENIN...



HMM?



OH HH...



LOUD-
MOUTH...

I'D
JUST
GOTTEN
TO
SLEEP!

WHO
IS
THIS
LOSER?



PRETTY
FUNNY,
EH?
I MEANT
TO DO
THAT!
NO,
REALLY...

HEH
HEH
HEH!!



NOW
TRY AGAIN,
YOU
FOOL!

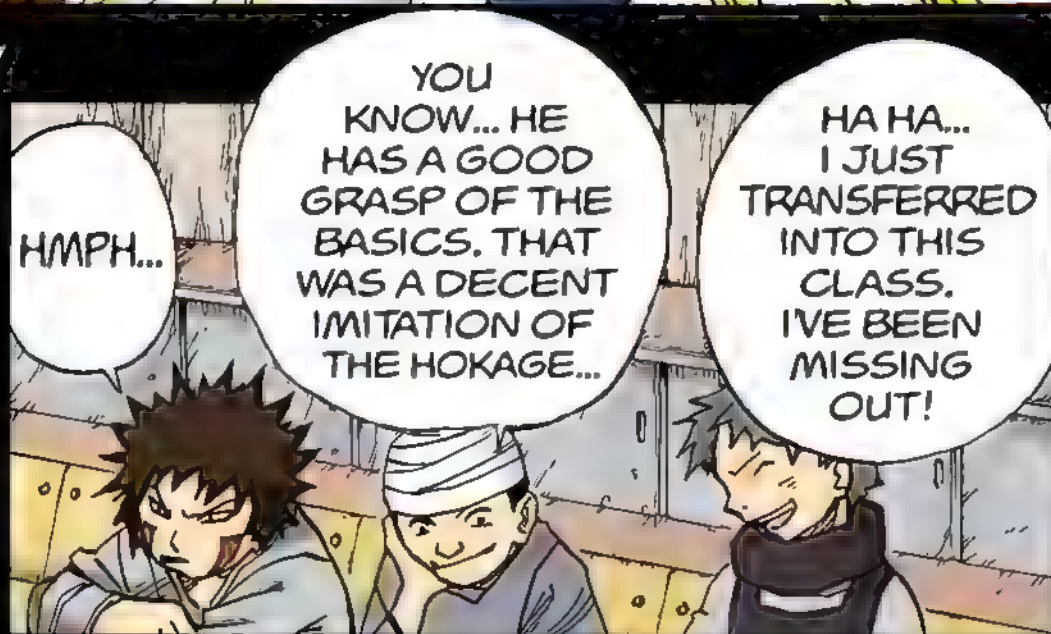
NARUTO...
YOU'VE
BEEN A
STUDENT
HERE FOR
THREE
YEARS.

ENOUGH!!

AWW...



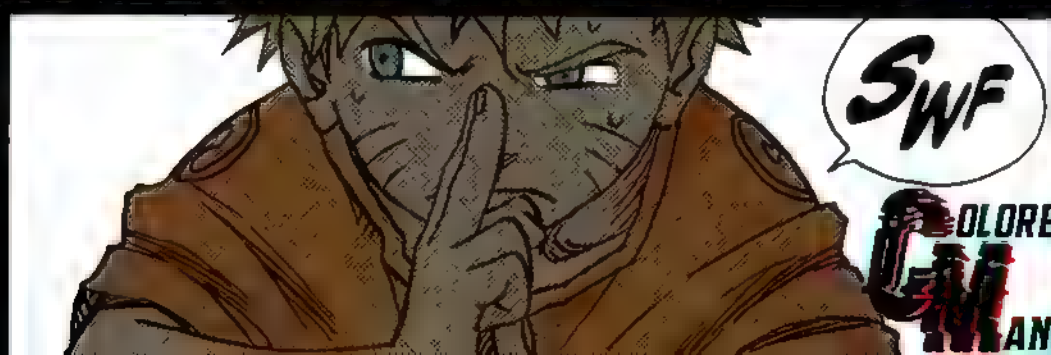
TRANS-
FORM!!



HMPH...

YOU
KNOW... HE
HAS A GOOD
GRASP OF THE
BASICS. THAT
WAS A DECENT
IMITATION OF
THE HOKAGE...

HA HA...
I JUST
TRANSFERRED
INTO THIS
CLASS.
I'VE BEEN
MISSING
OUT!



SWF

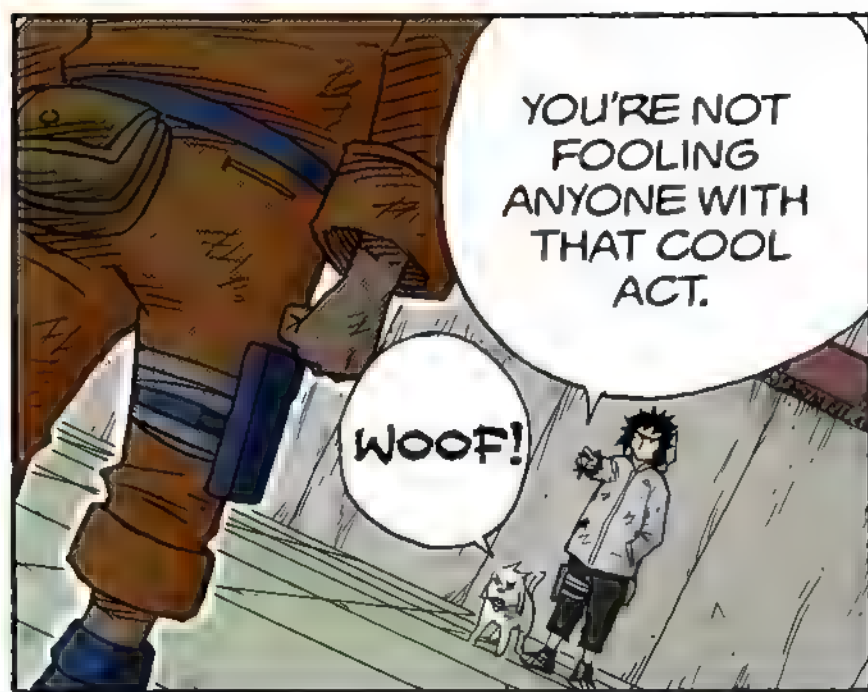
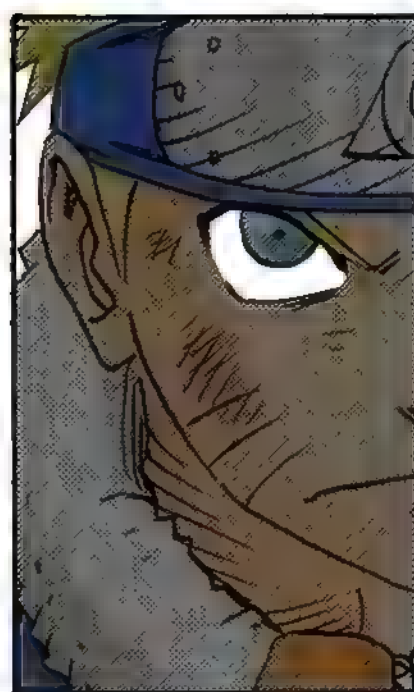
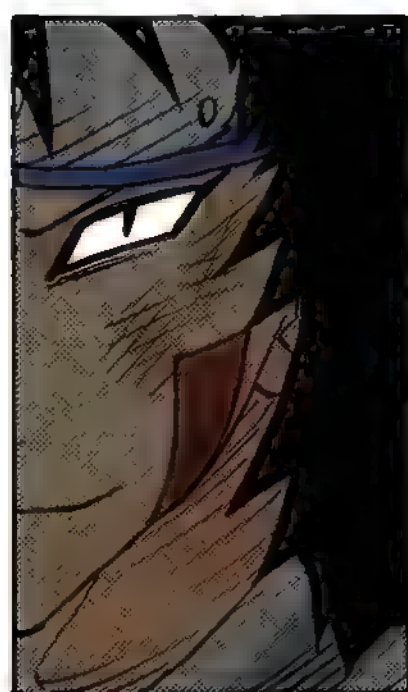
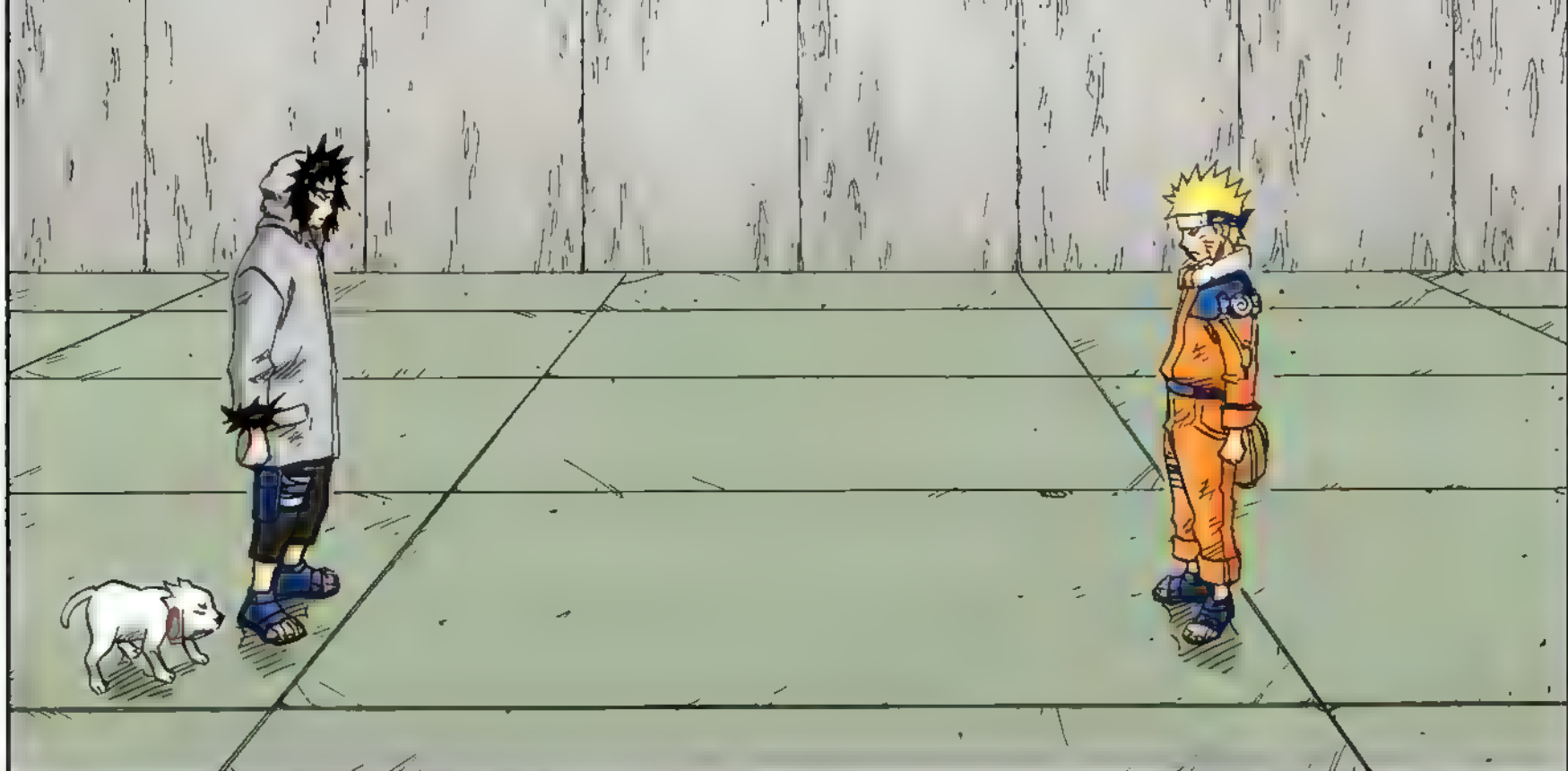
CLARENCE
AND
ANGEL.COM

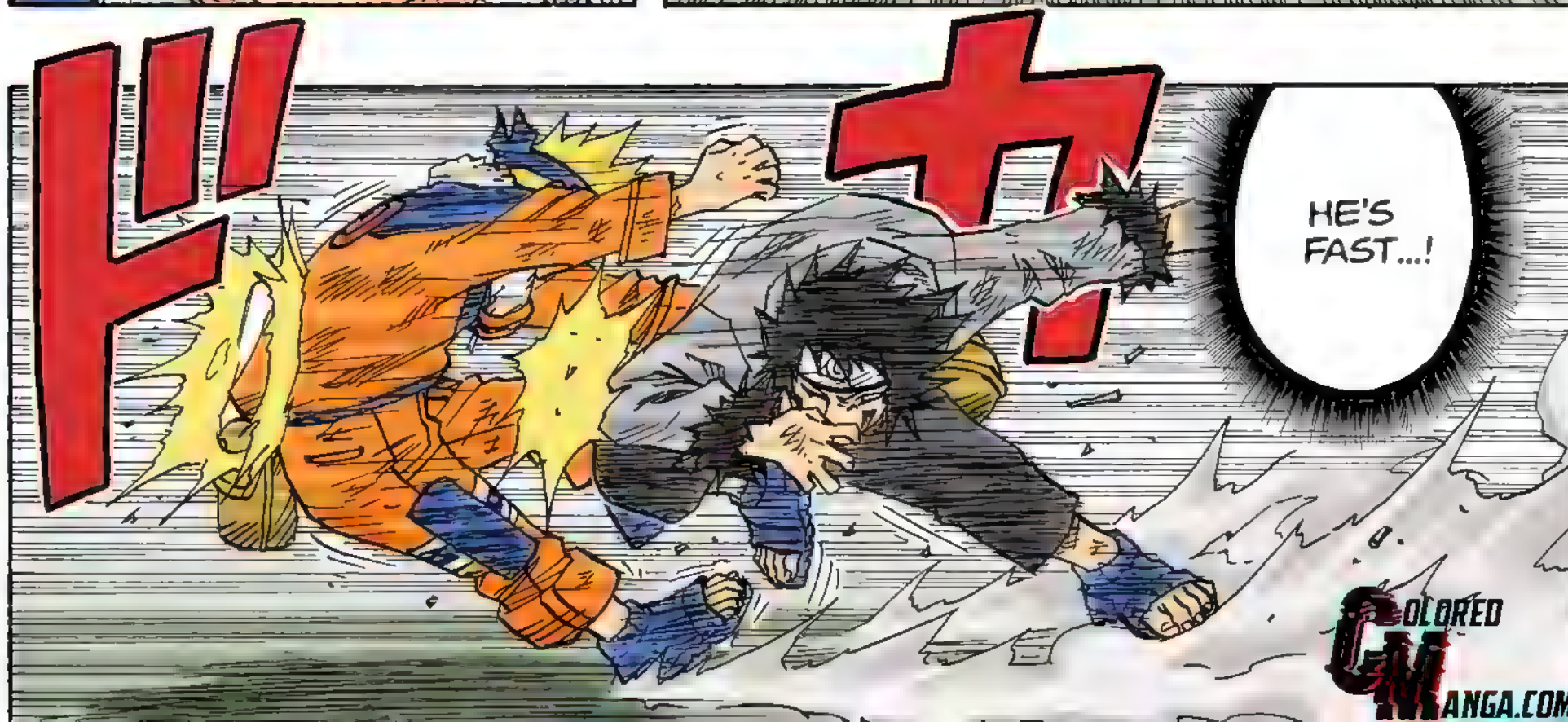
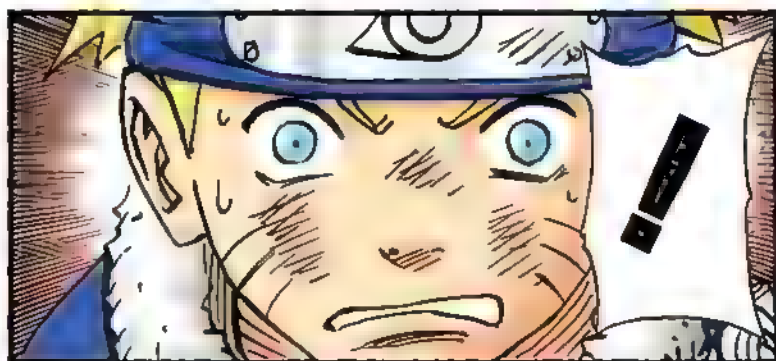
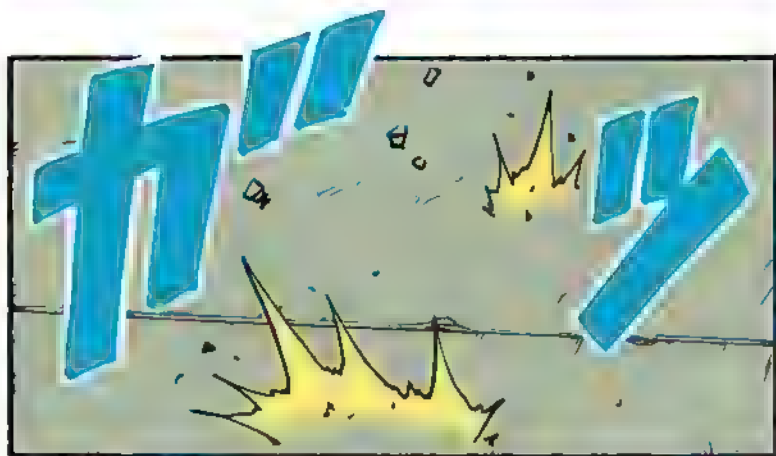
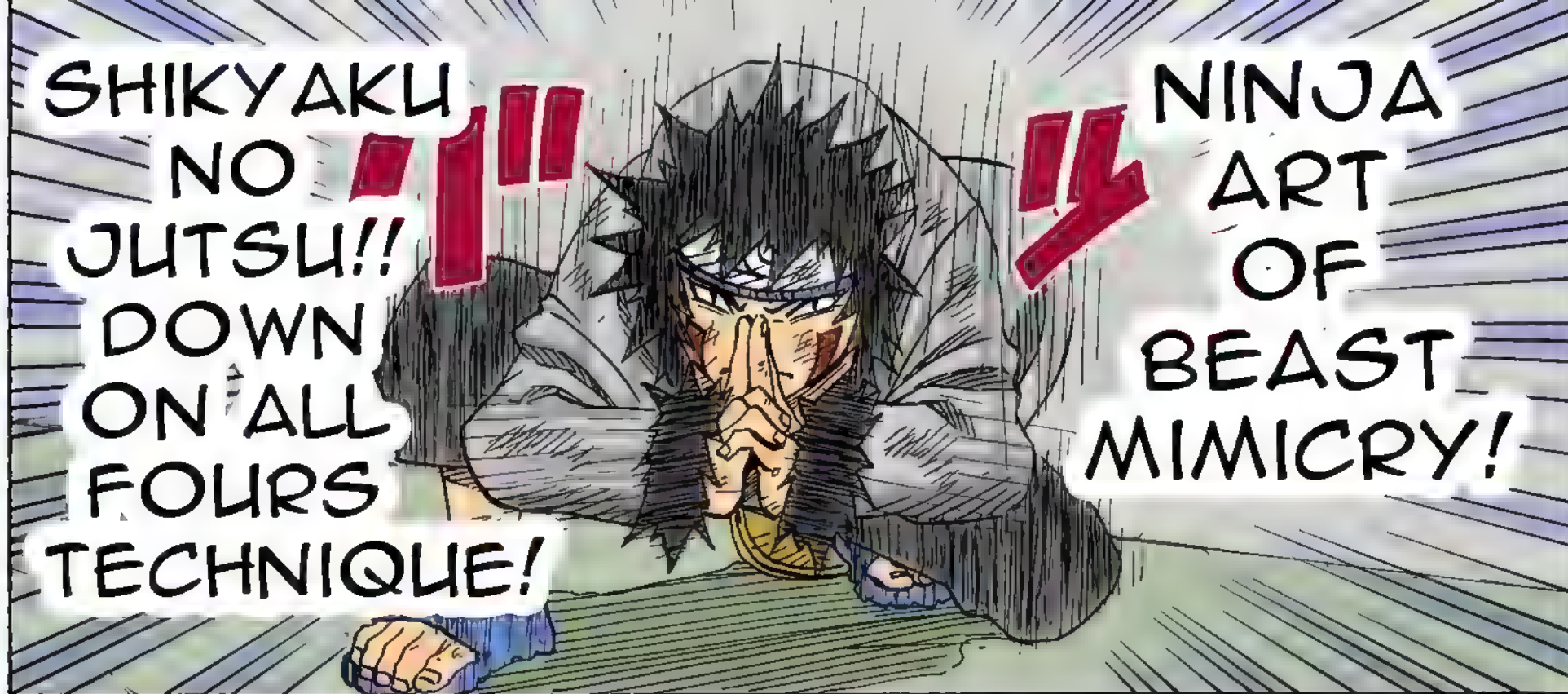


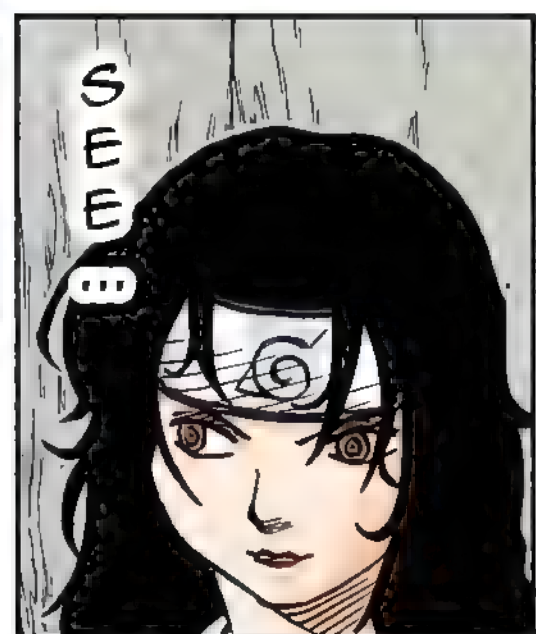
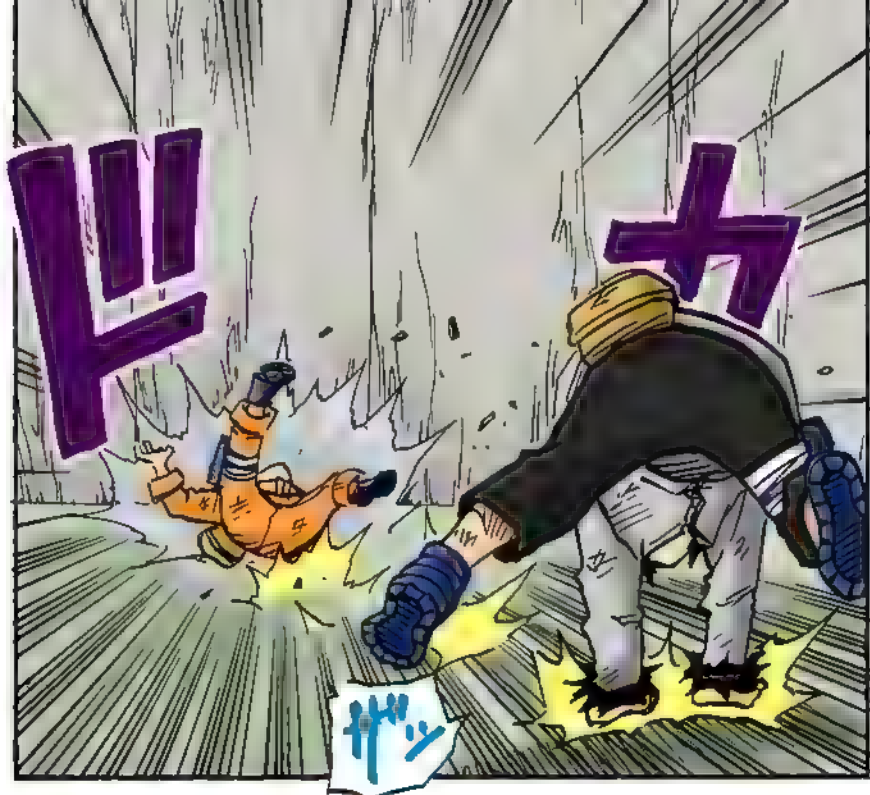
HE'S
BEEN HERE
THREE YEARS
WITHOUT
MASTERING
THE ART OF
TRANS-
FORMATION!

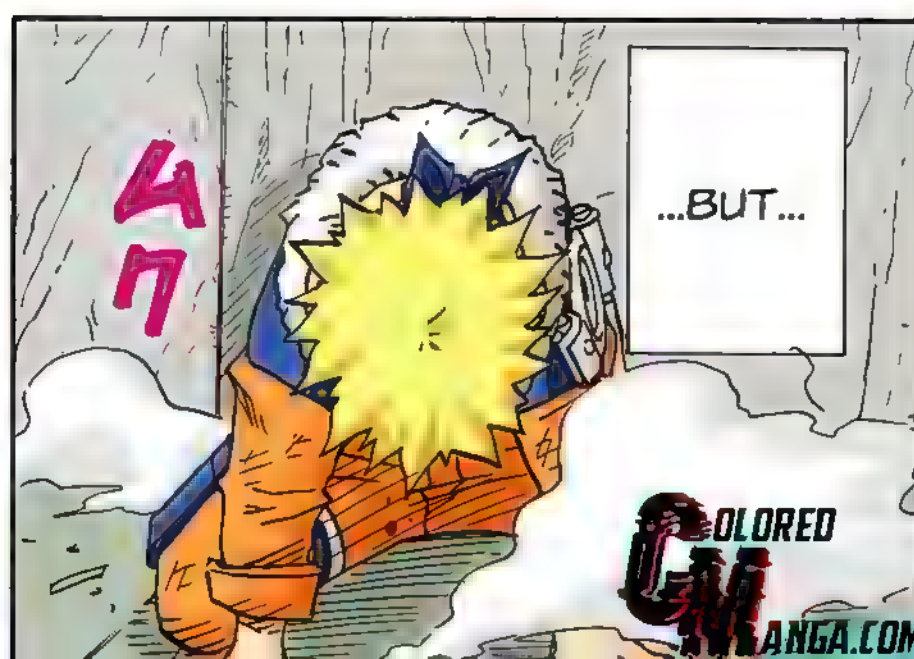
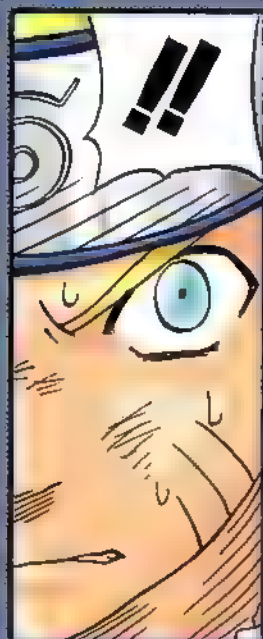
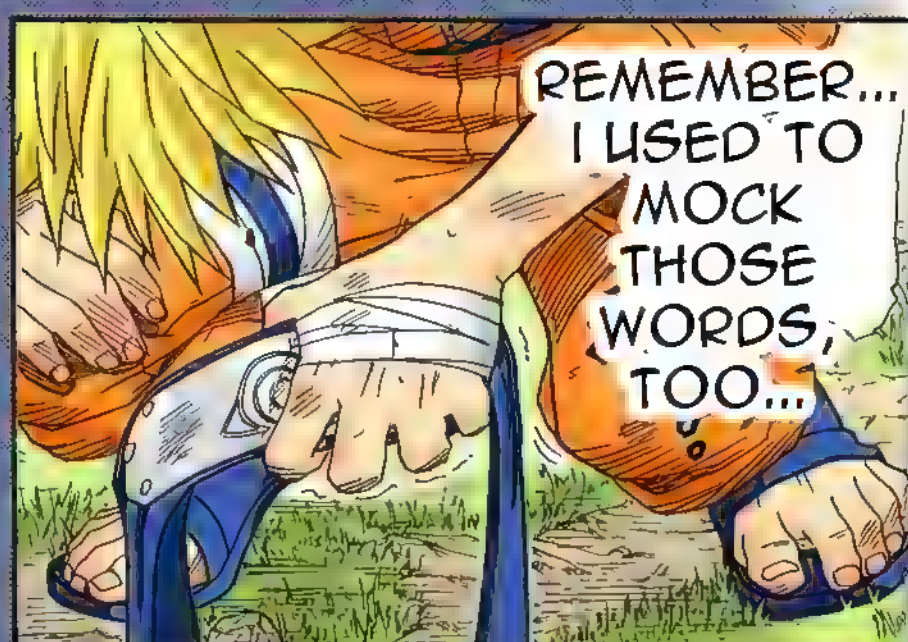
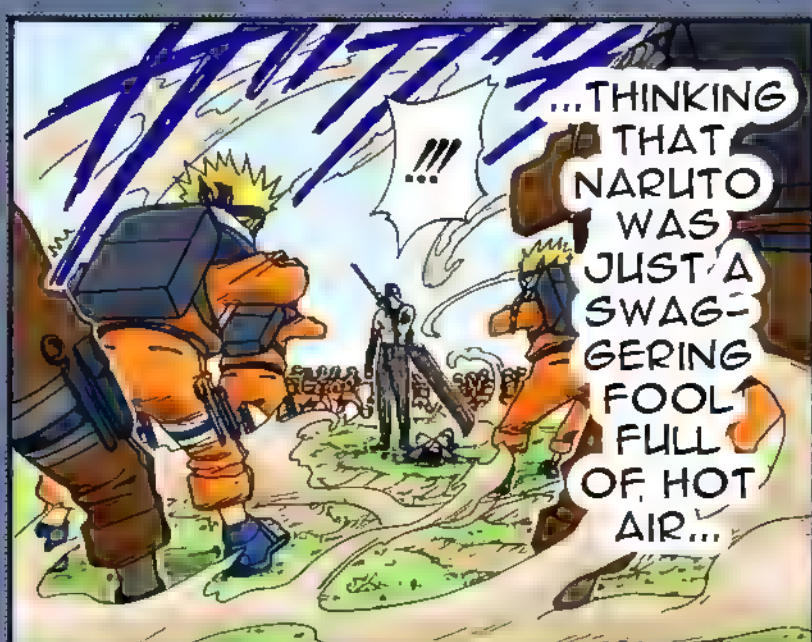
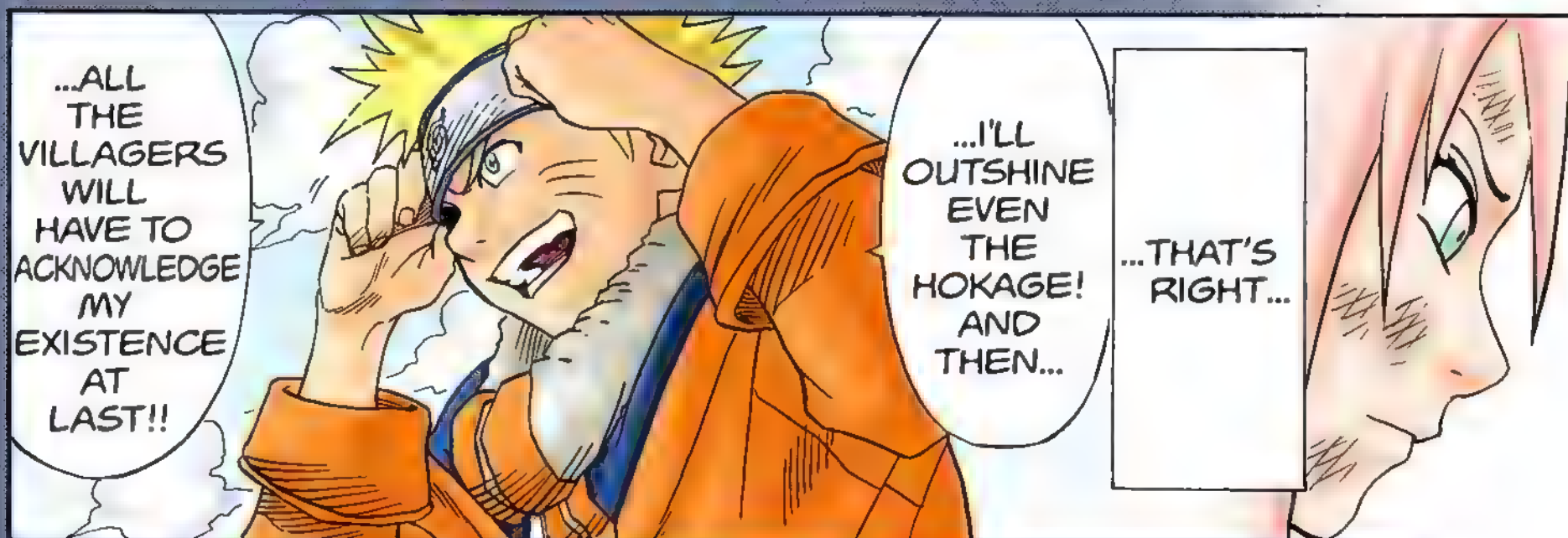


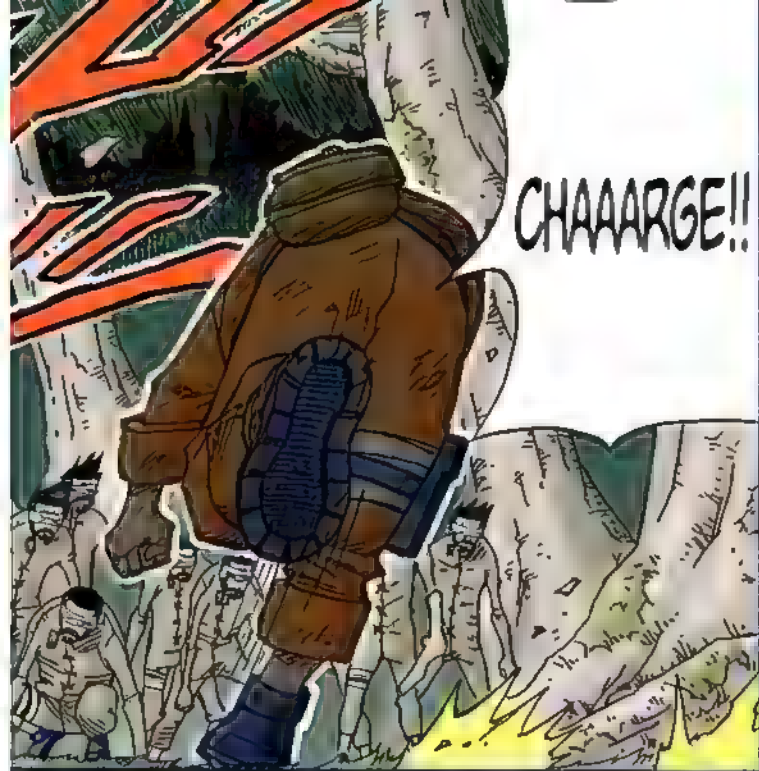
HA HA...
IS THIS
GUY FOR
REAL?!







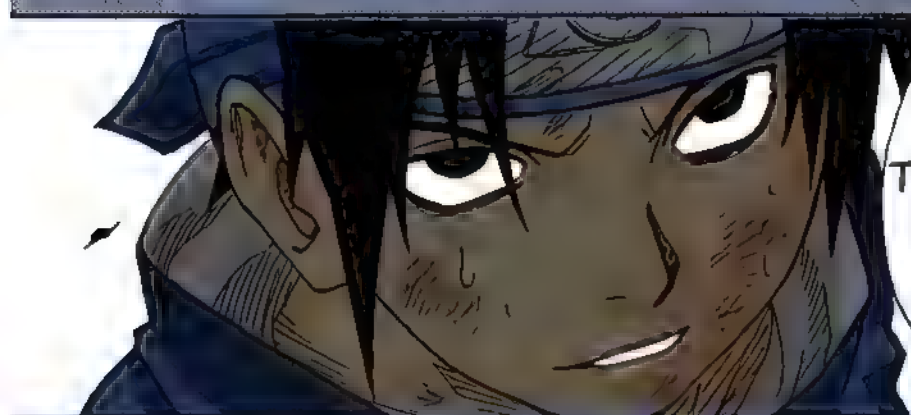




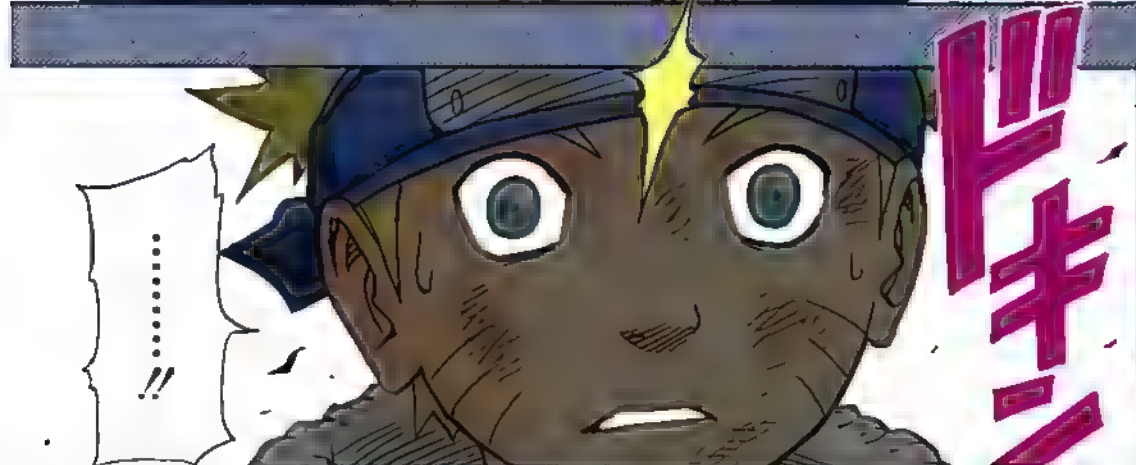
CHAAARGE!!



...YOU
BIG
CHICKEN?!

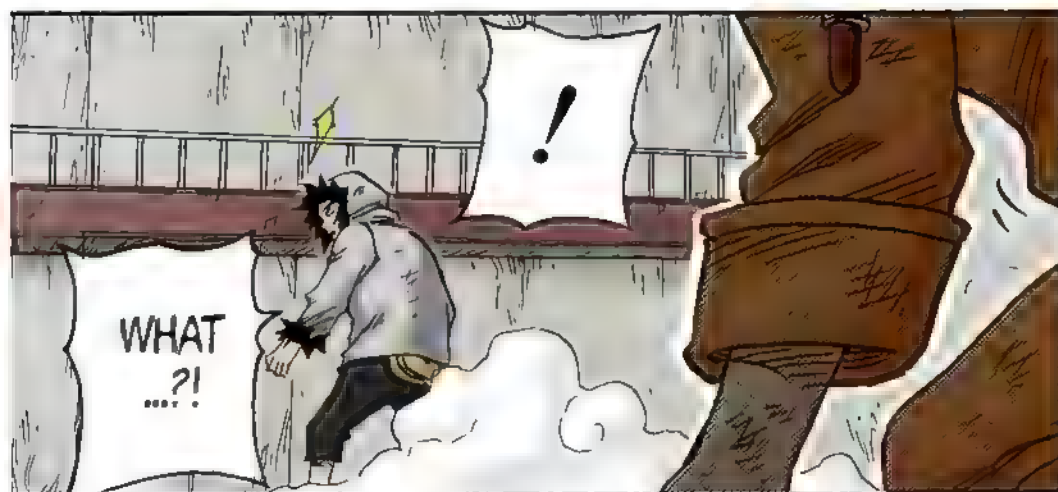


YOU'RE
ONE OF
THE ONES
I WANT
TO
FIGHT...



THAT'S...
MY
SHINOBI
WAY!

I
NEVER
GO BACK
ON MY
WORD.



WHAT
?!
....



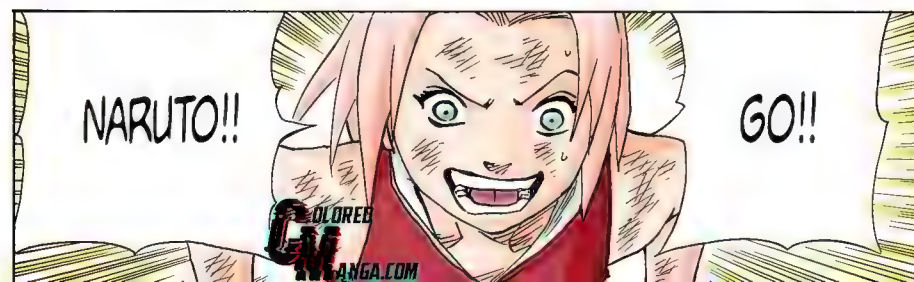
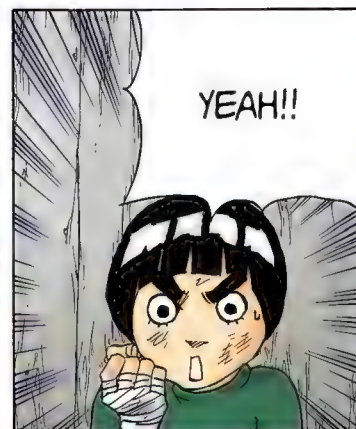
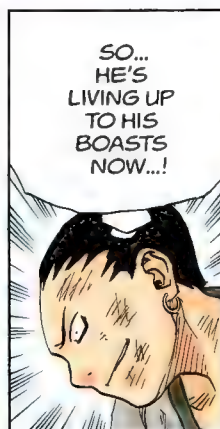
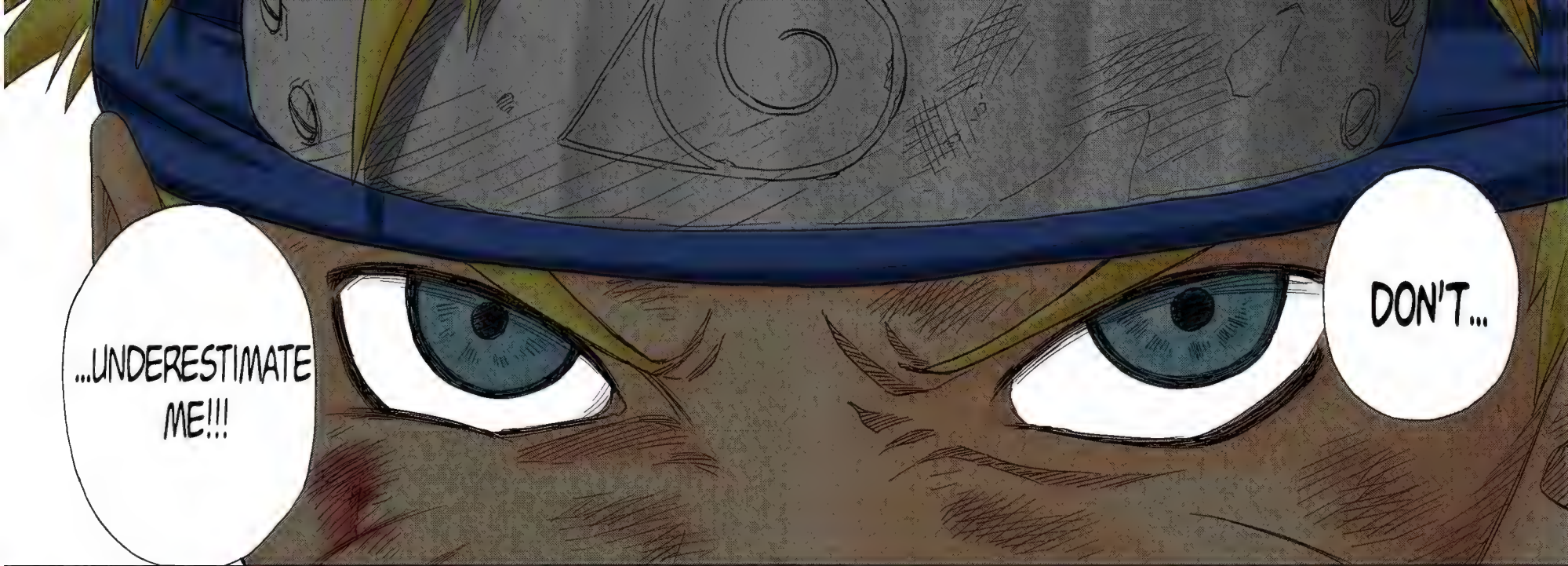
...I
WAS
WRONG!

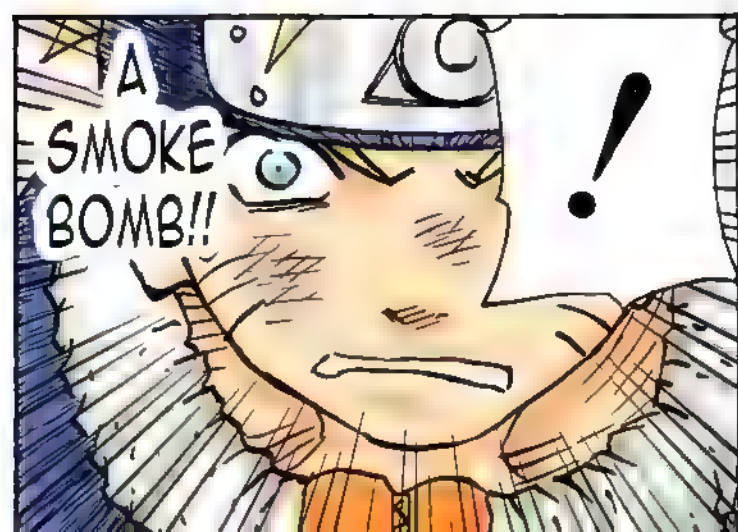
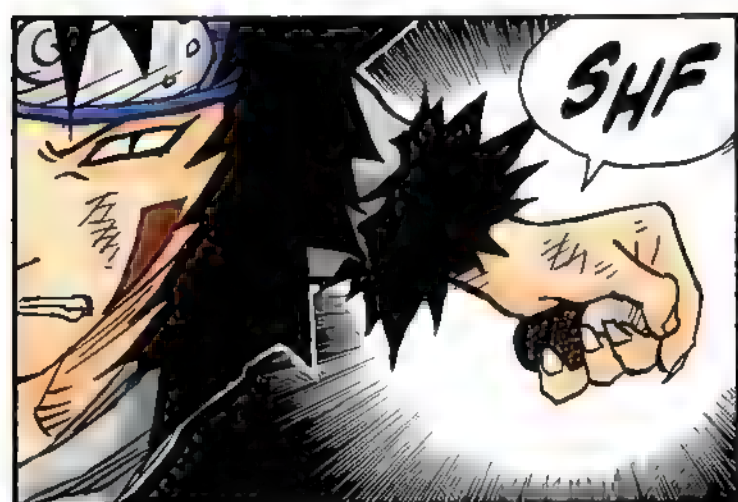
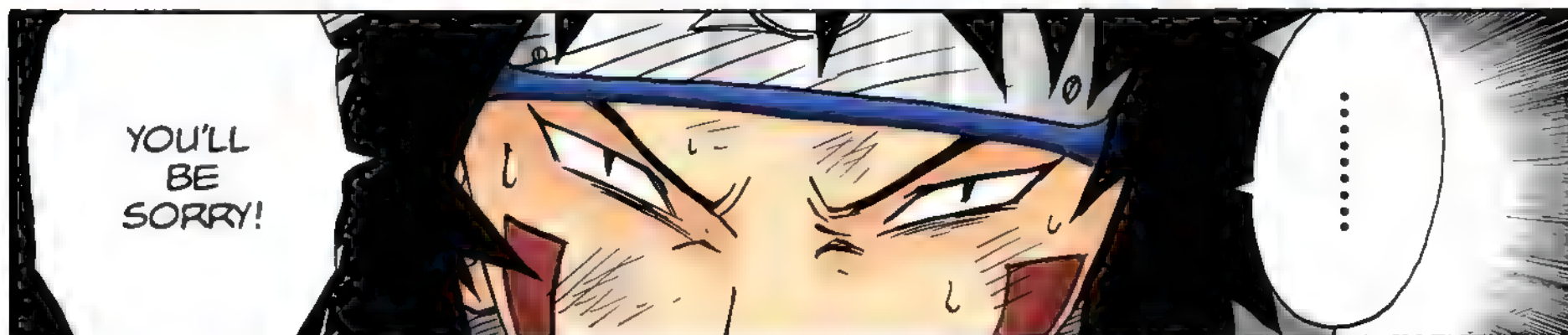


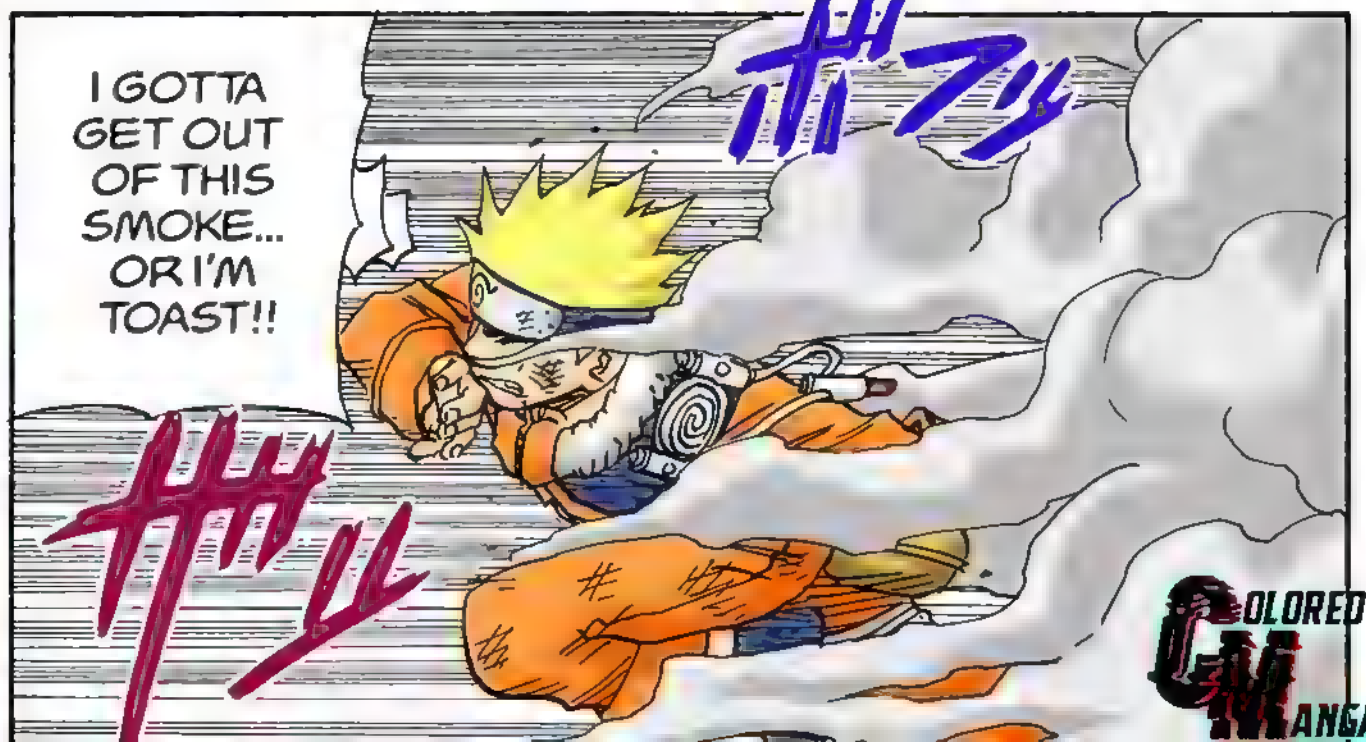
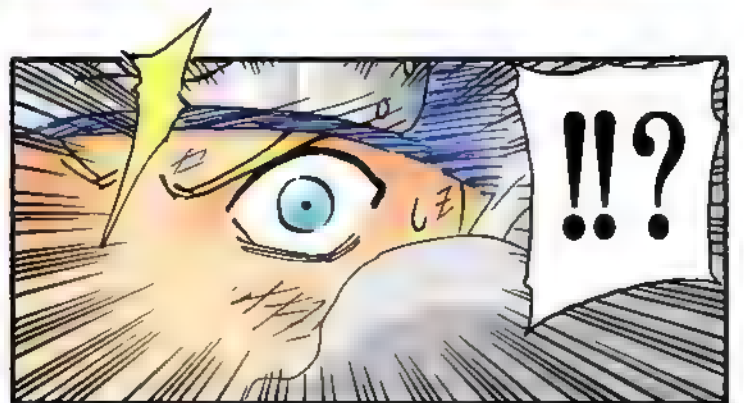
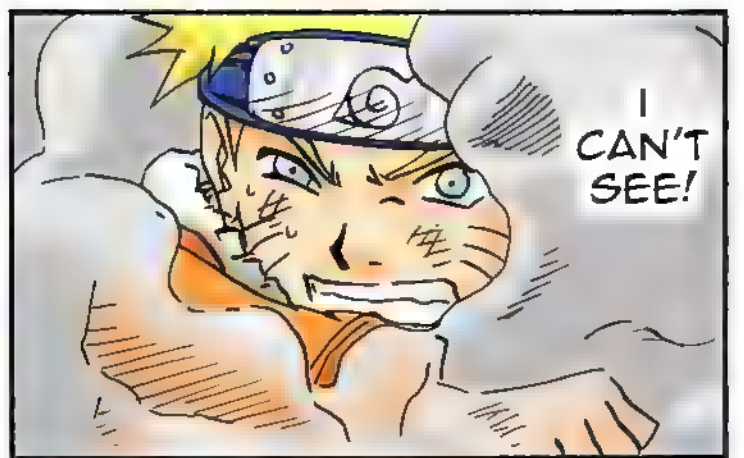
...NARUTO!

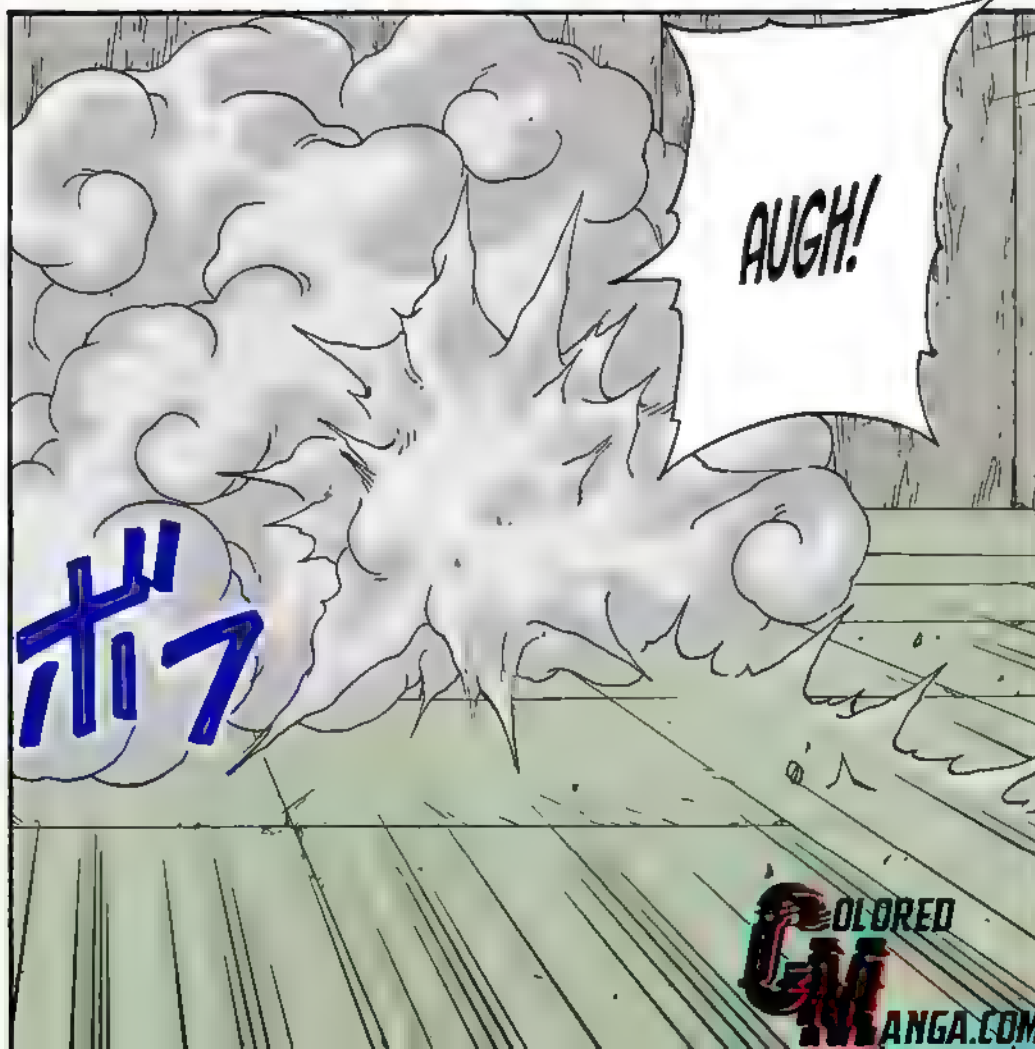
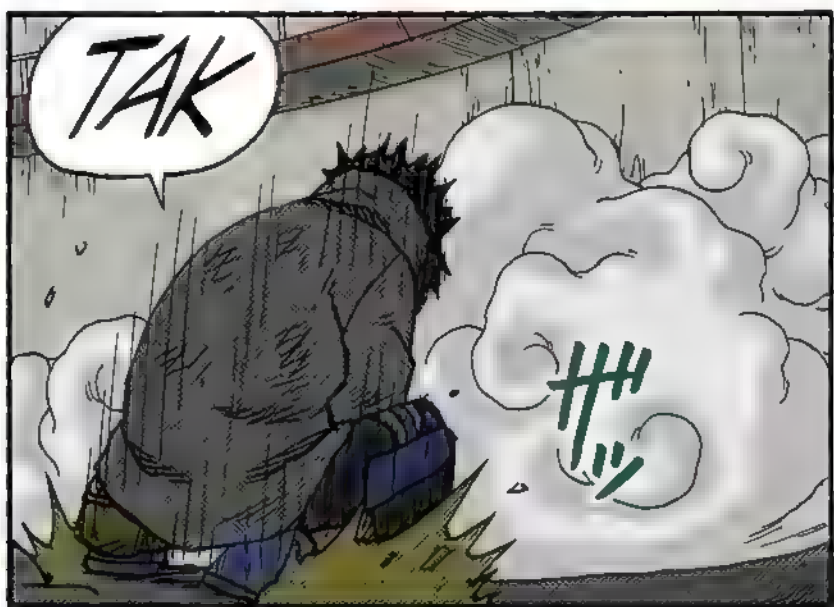
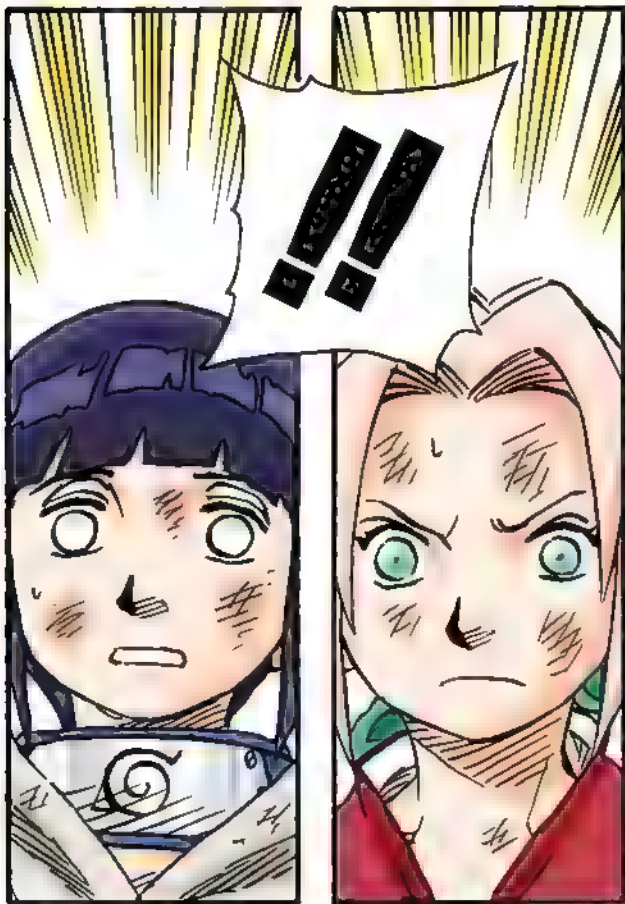


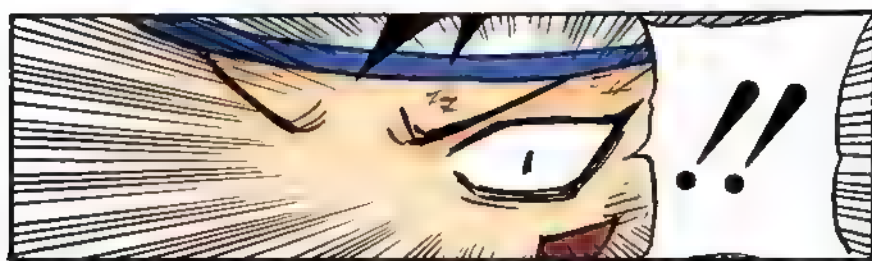
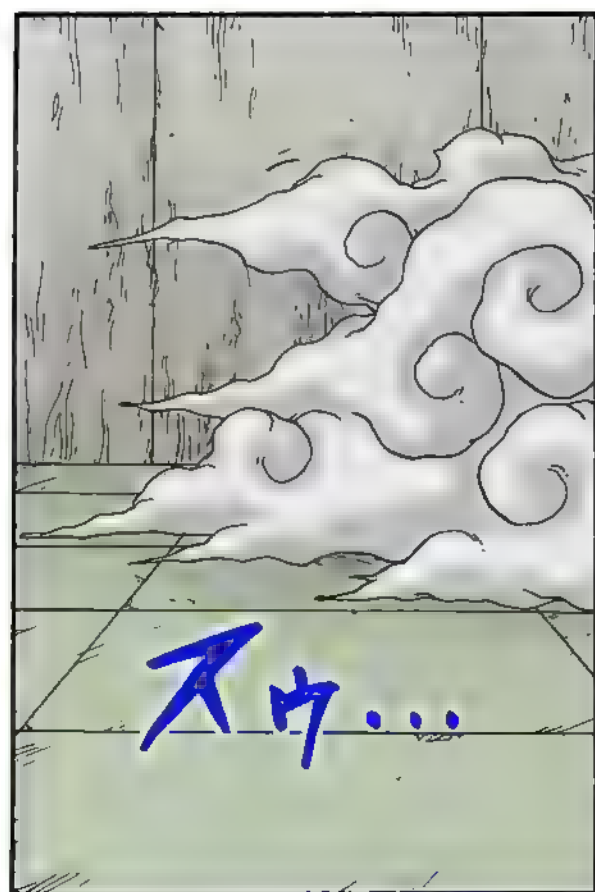
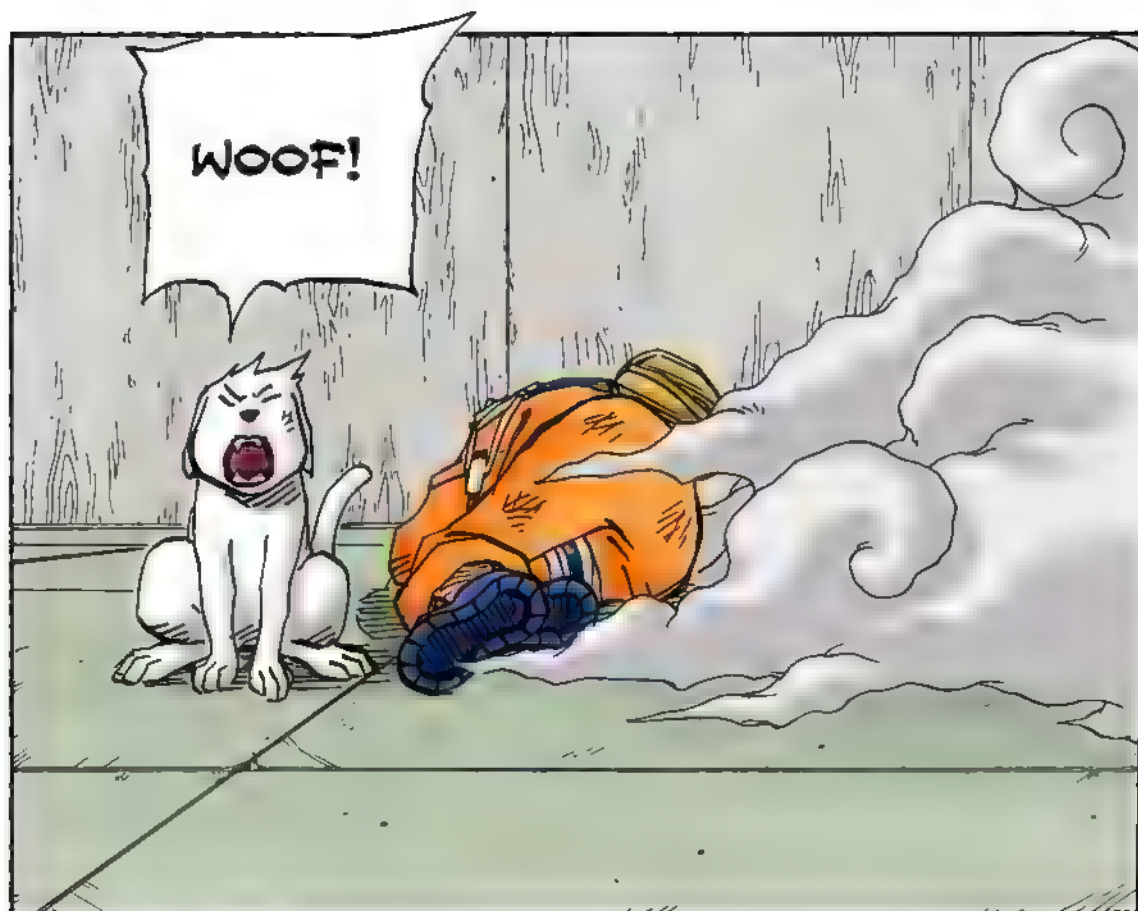
YOU
SHOW
'EM...

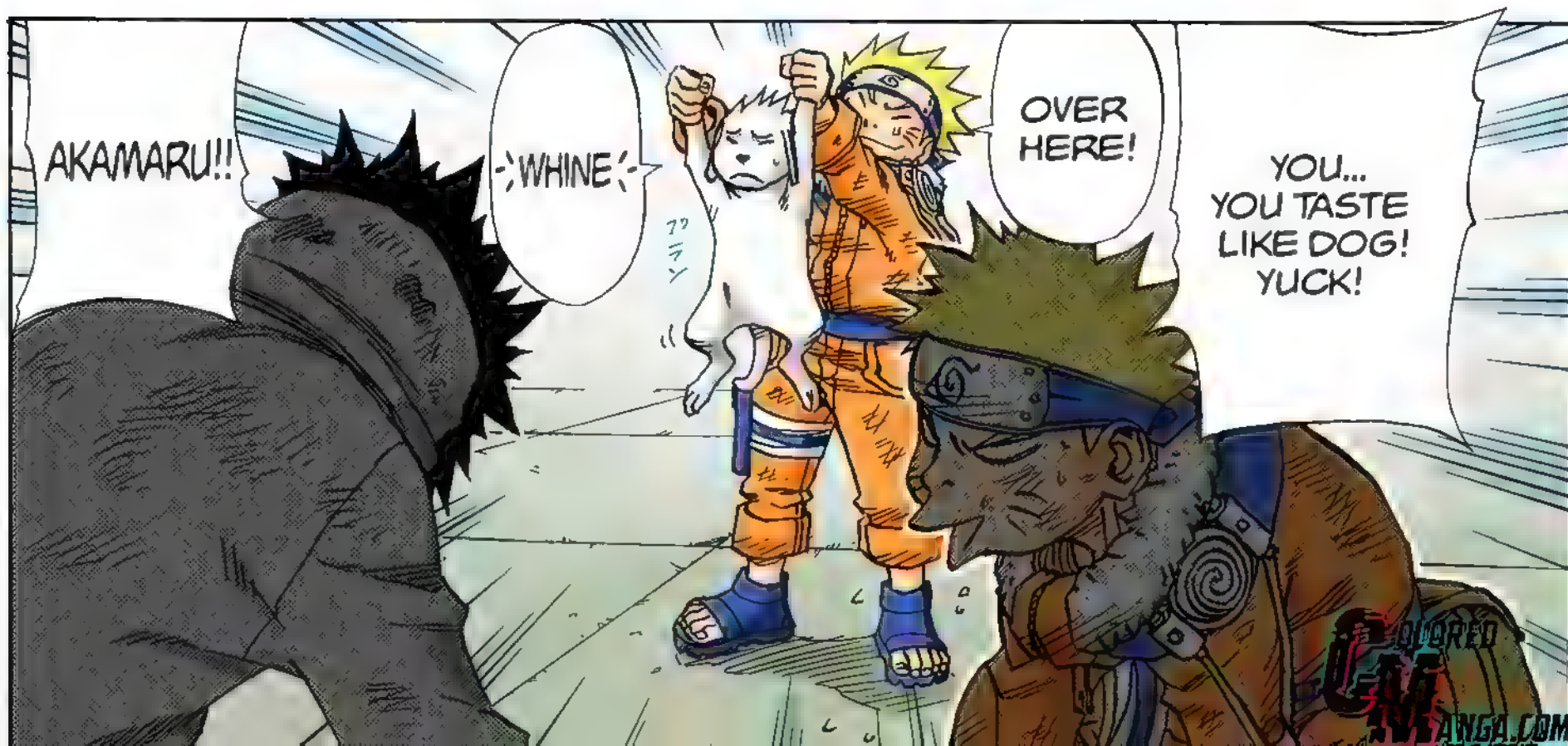
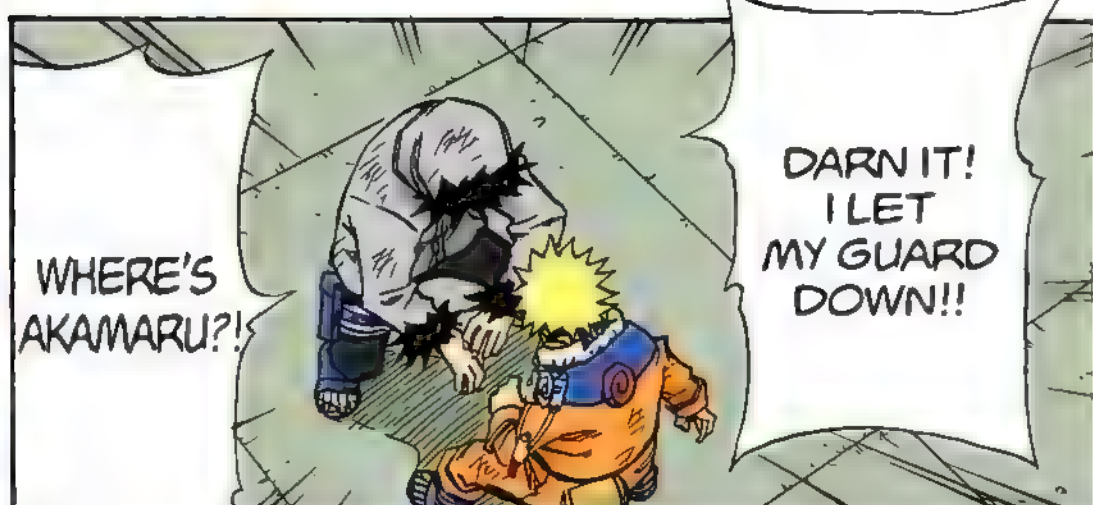
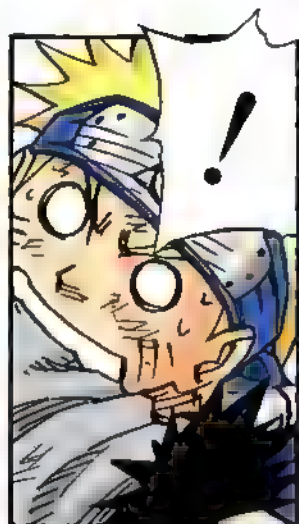
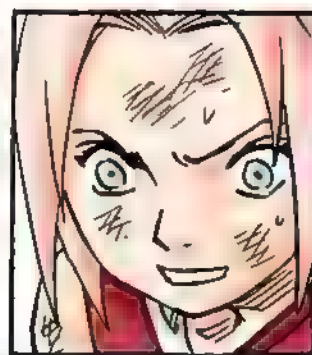
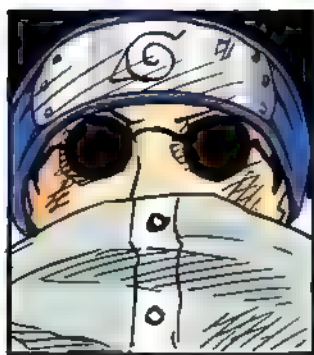
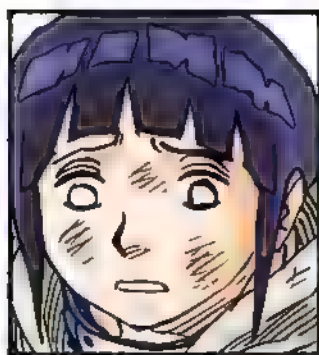


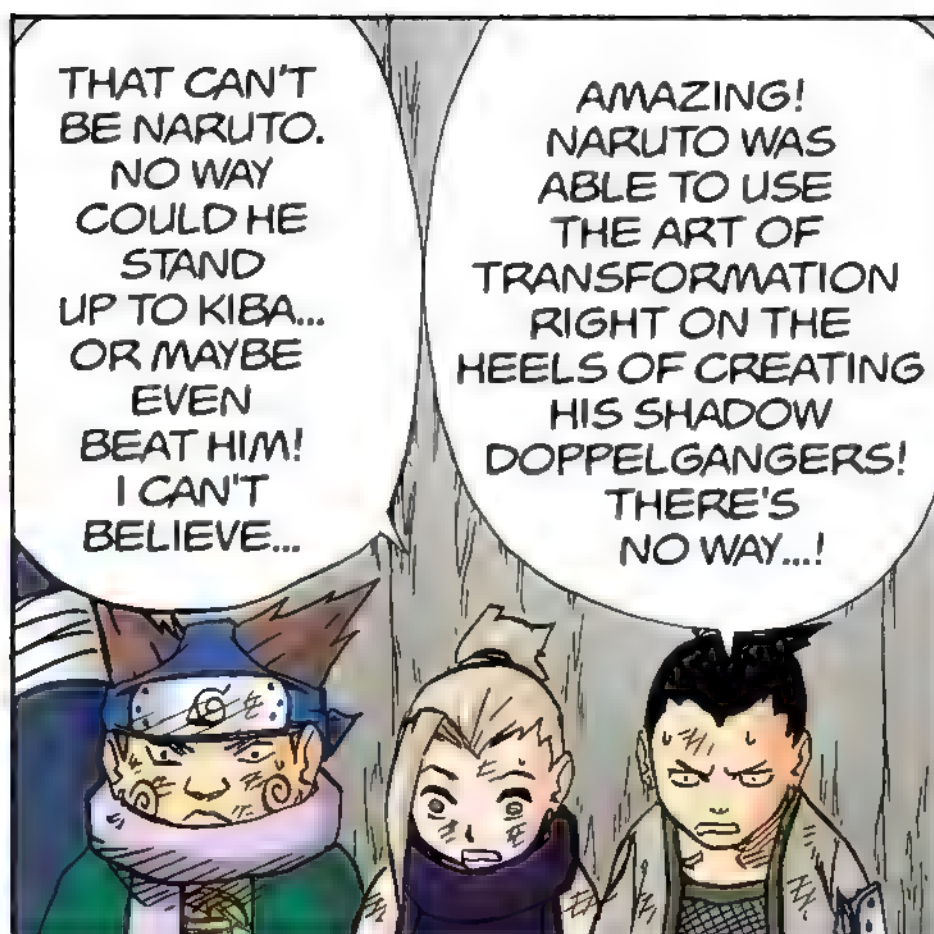










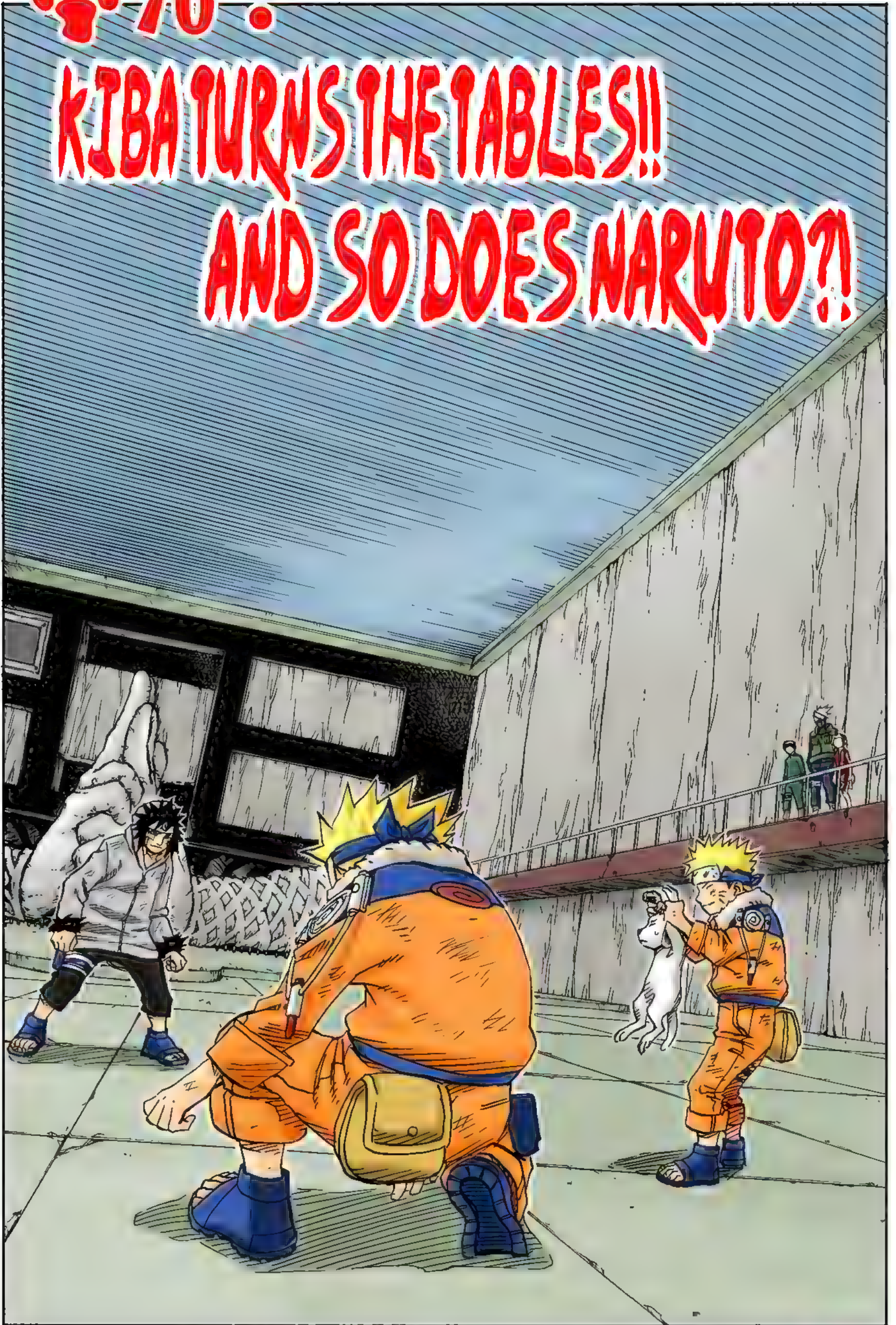


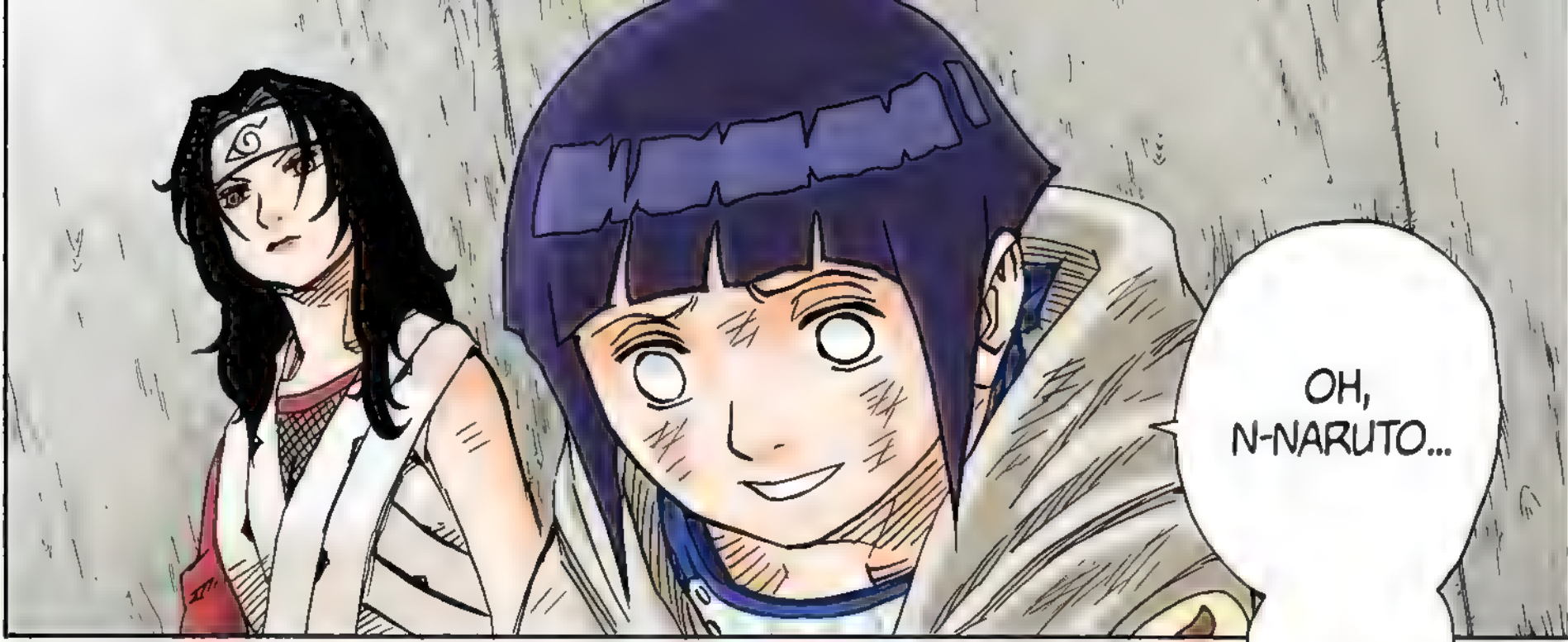
ナンバー

76 :

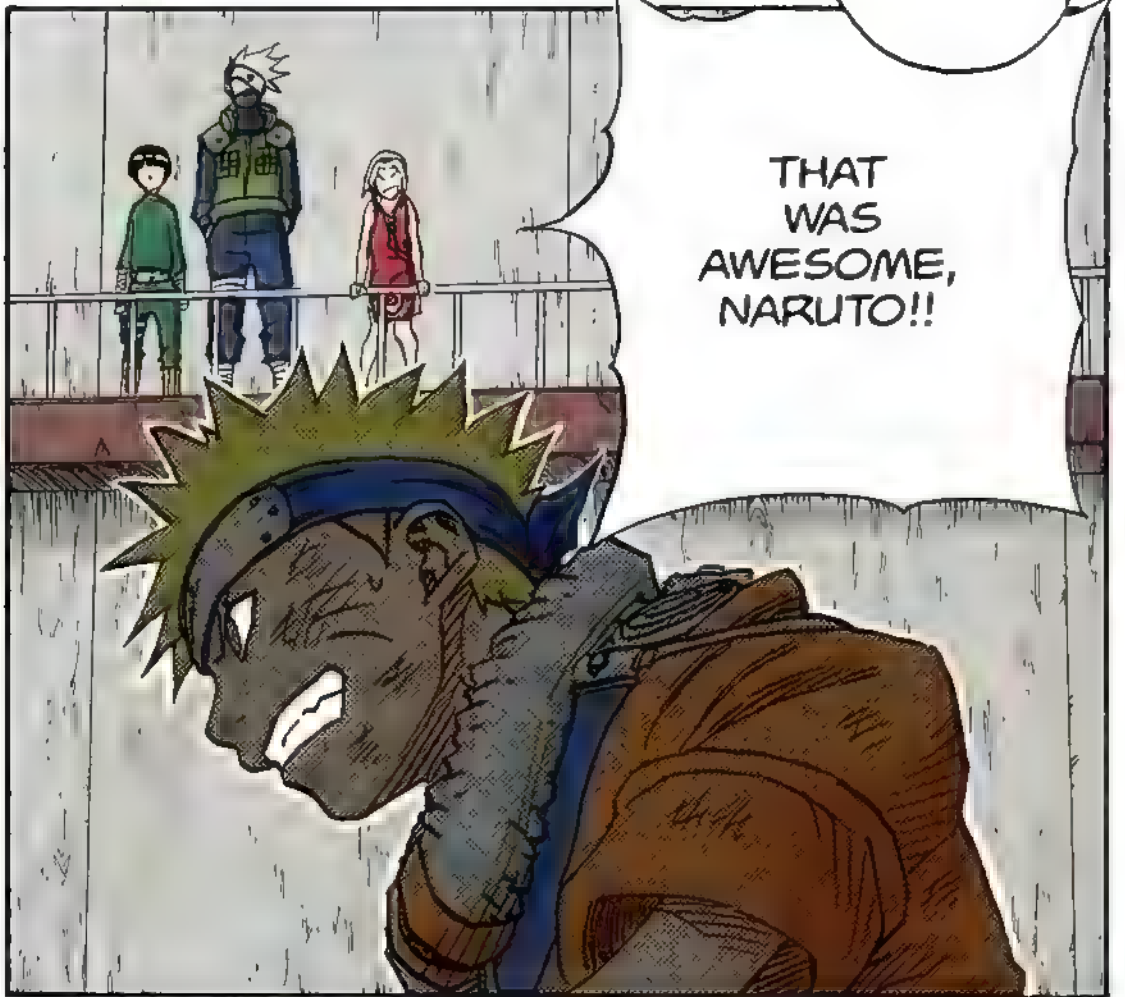
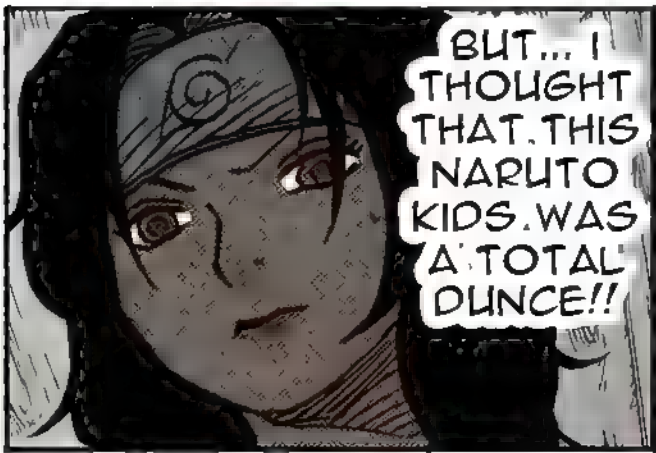
KIBA TURNS THE TABLES!!

AND SO DOES NARUTO?!

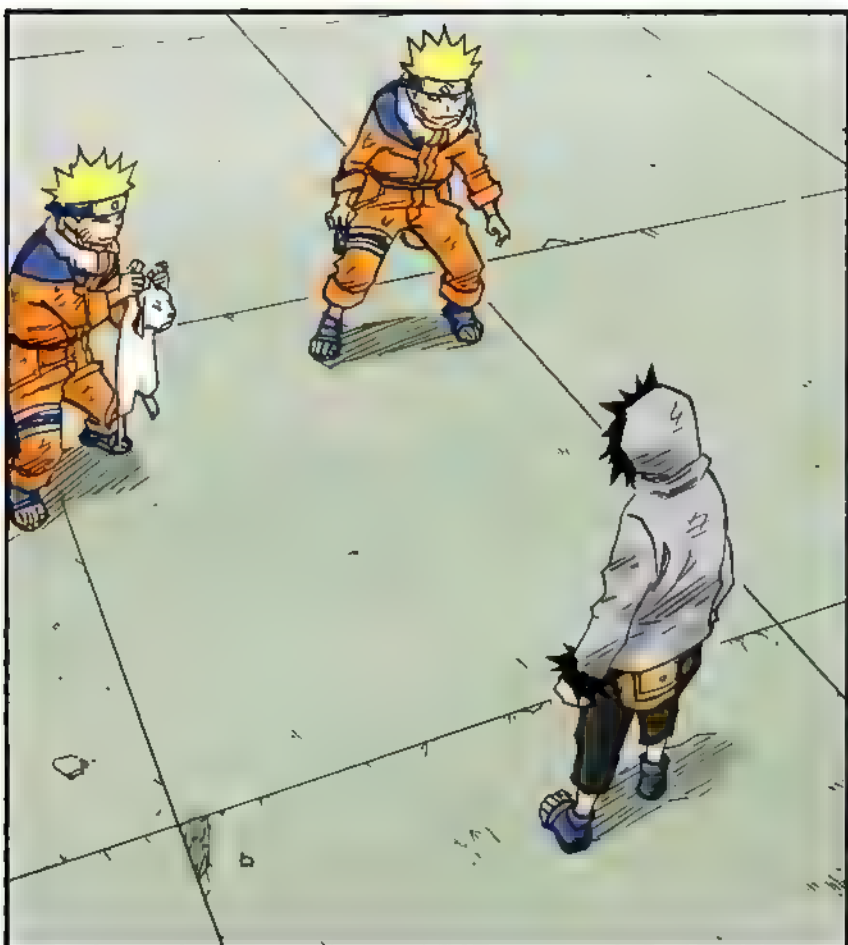


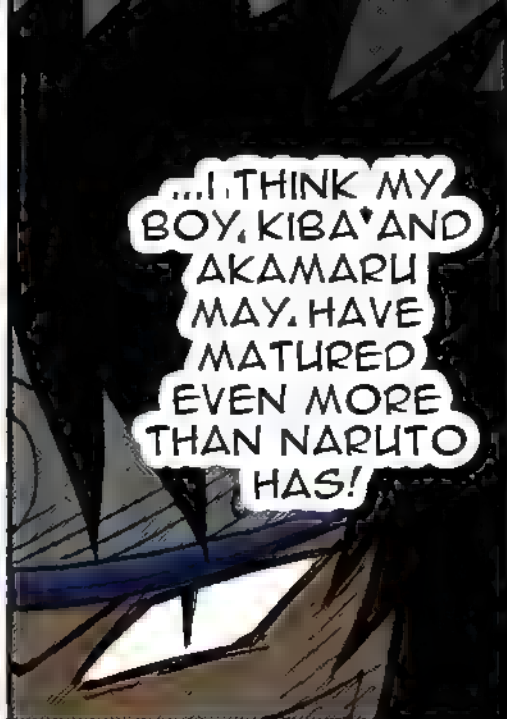
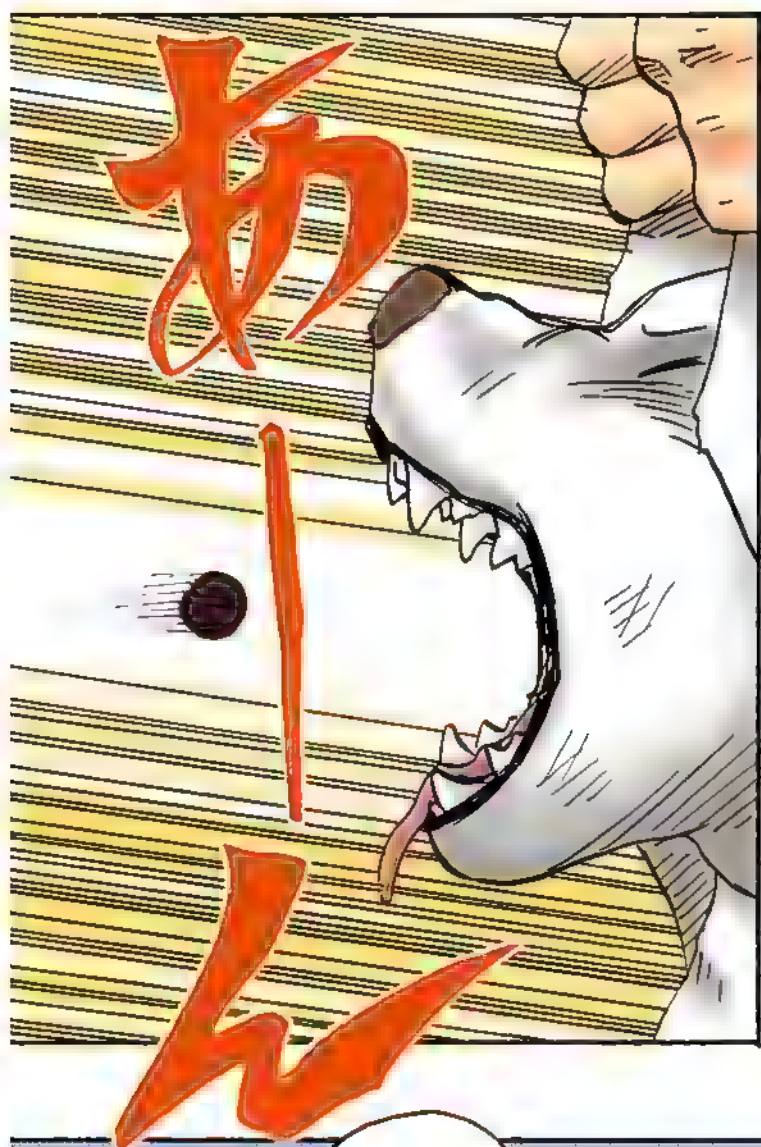


TH--!

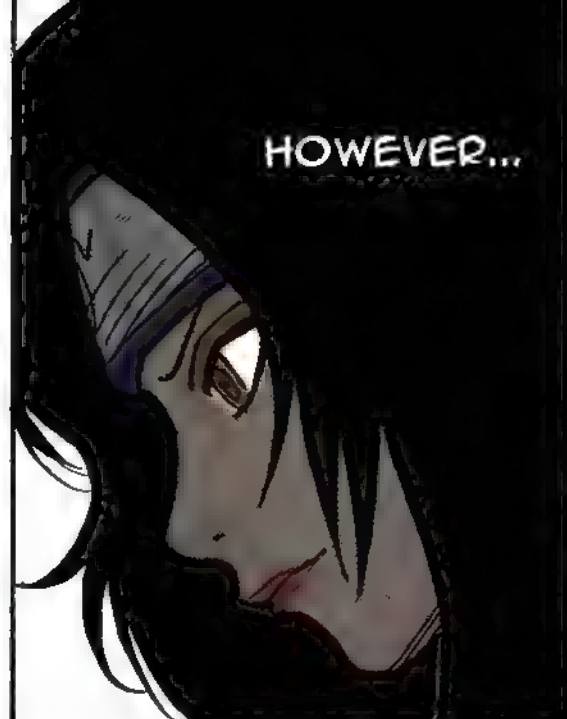


THAT WAS AWESOME, NARUTO!!

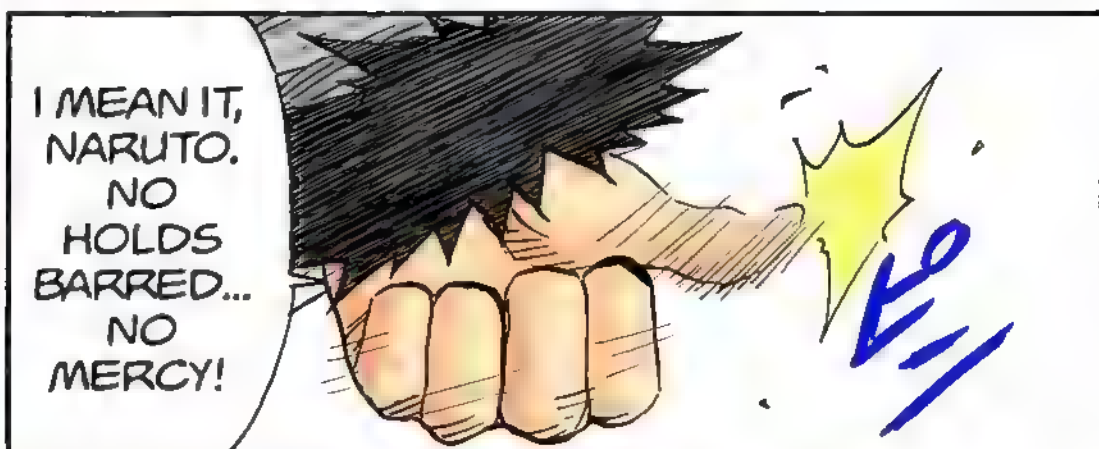




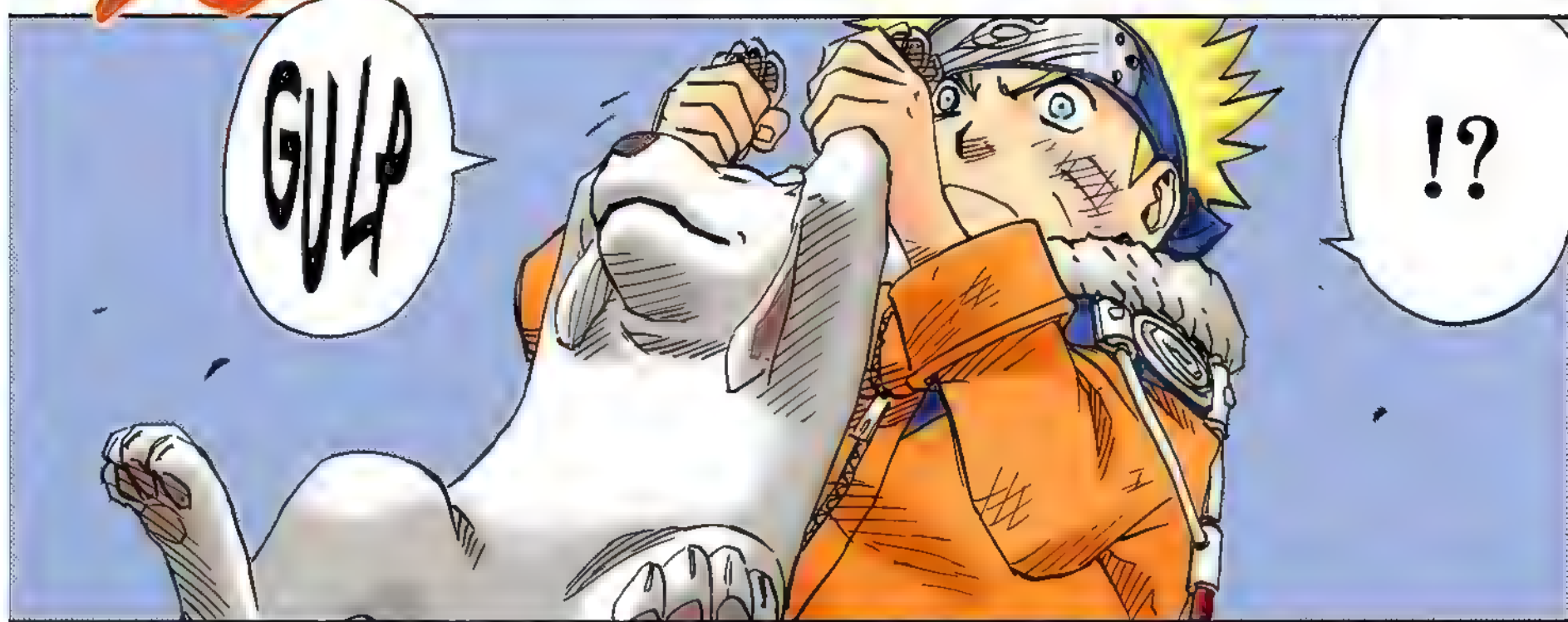
...I THINK MY
BOY, KIBA AND
AKAMARU
MAY HAVE
MATURED
EVEN MORE
THAN NARUTO
HAS!



HOWEVER...



I MEAN IT,
NARUTO.
NO
HOLDS
BARRED...
NO
MERCY!



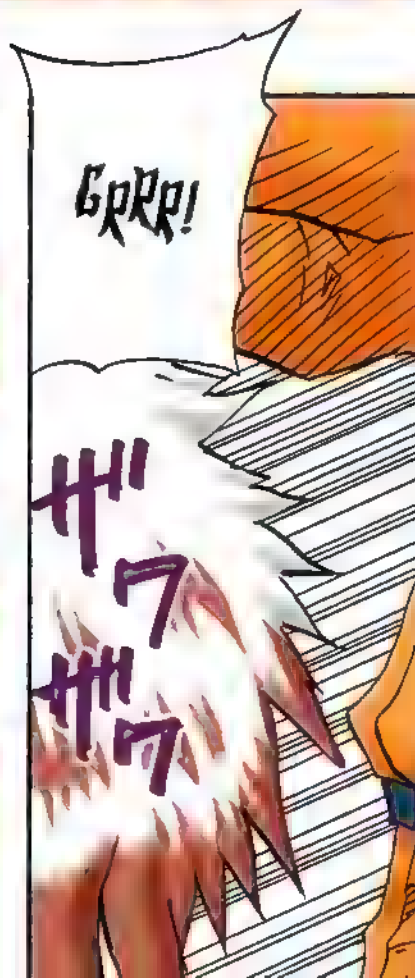
SNARL!

OWW!



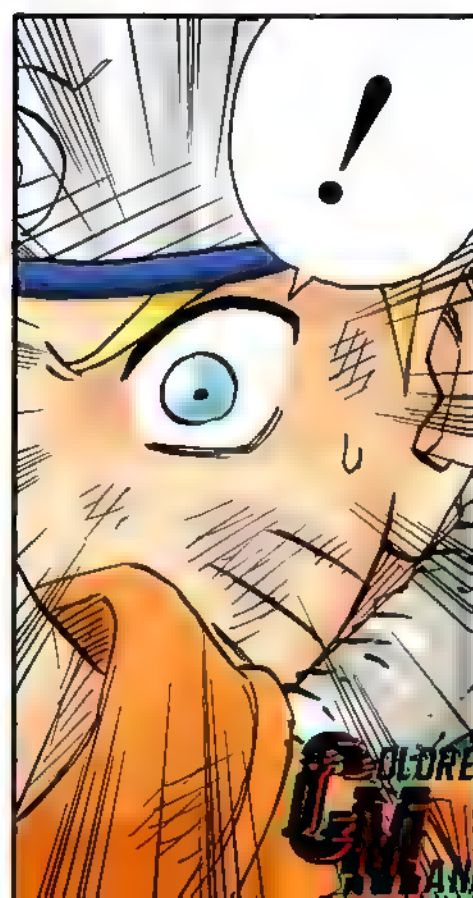
カ
ン

GRRR...



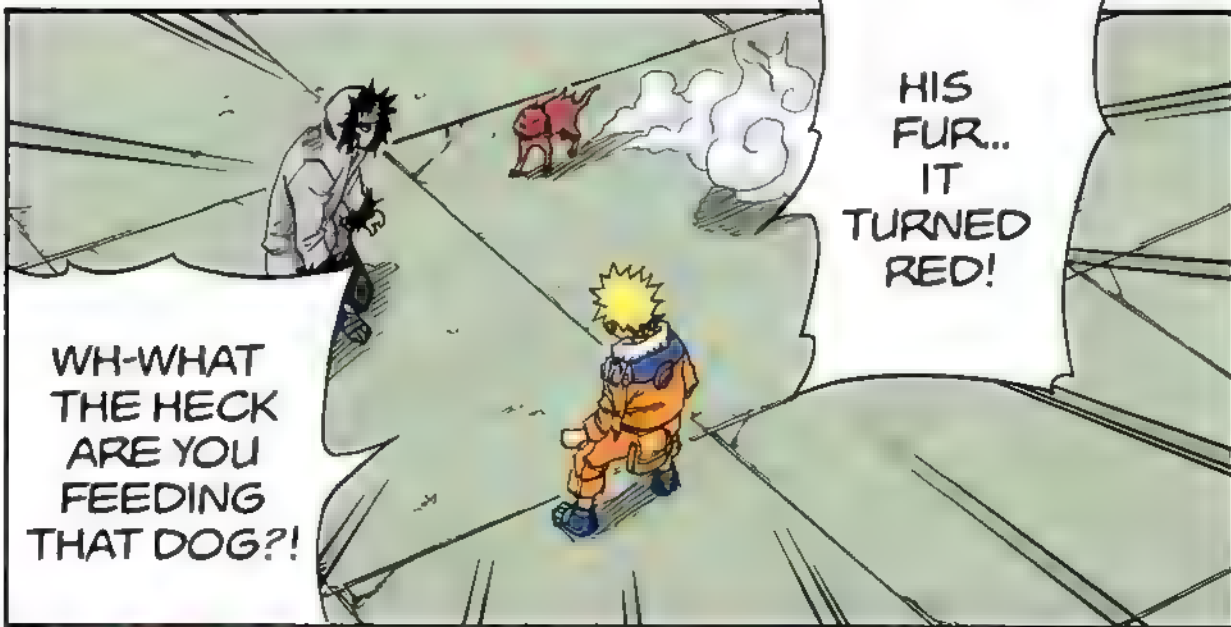
GRRR!

カ
ン
カ
ン





A
MILITARY
RATIONS
PELLET?!



WH-WHAT
THE HECK
ARE YOU
FEEDING
THAT DOG?!

HIS
FUR...
IT
TURNED
RED!

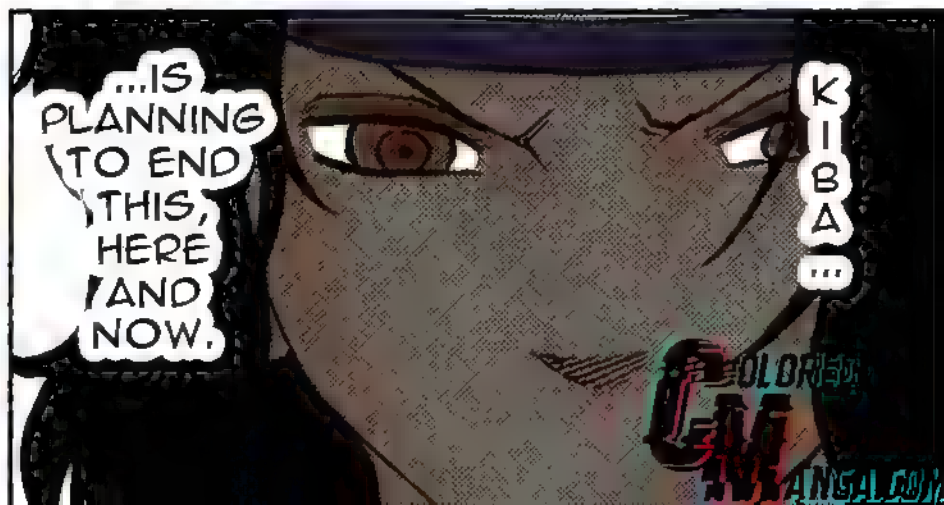


LET'S
DO IT,
AKAMARU!!



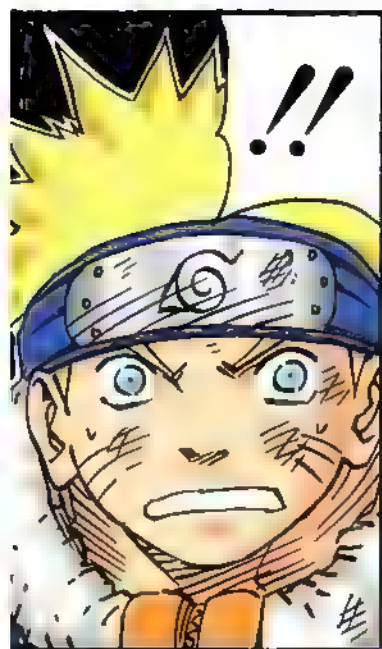
GULP

HIS NAME
IS AKAMARU.
IT MEANS
"RED,"
YOU DOPE!!



...IS
PLANNING
TO END
THIS,
HERE
AND
NOW.

K
I
B
A



NINJA
ART OF
BEAST
MIMICRY!

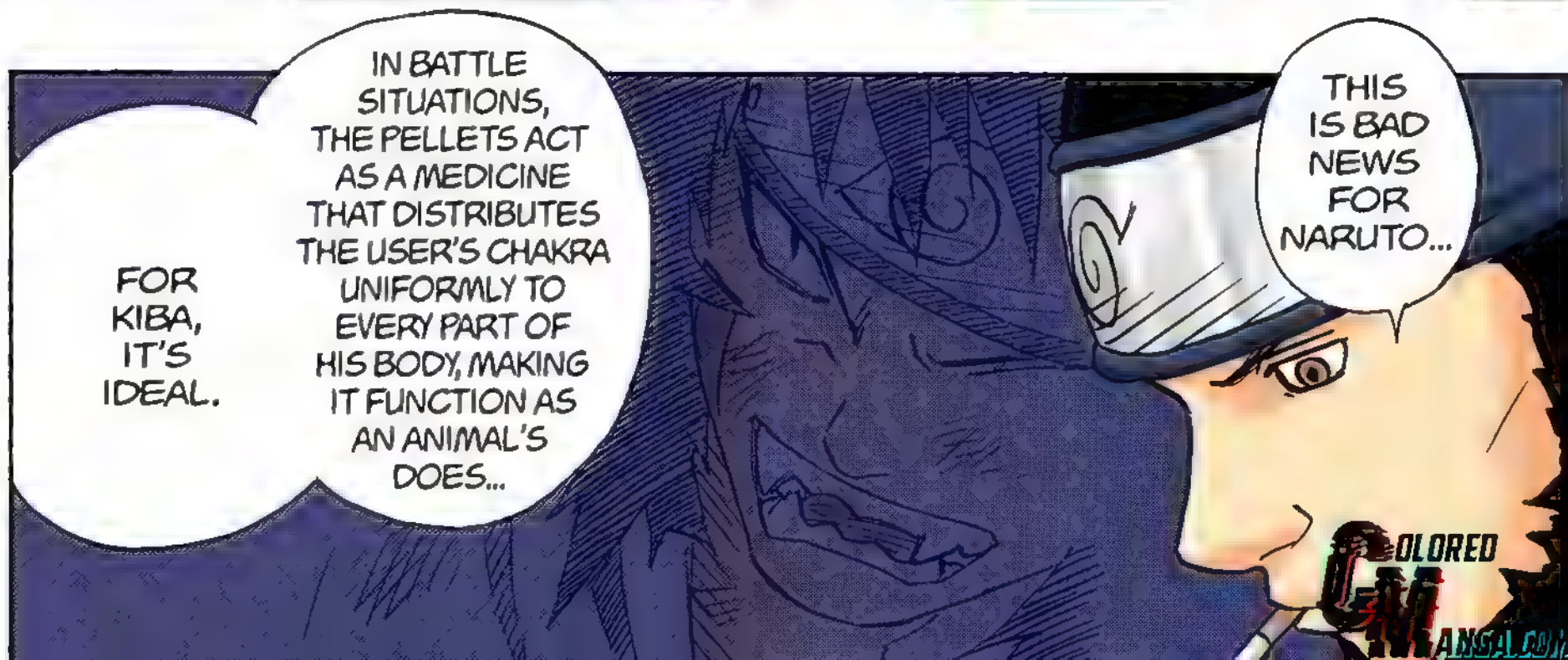
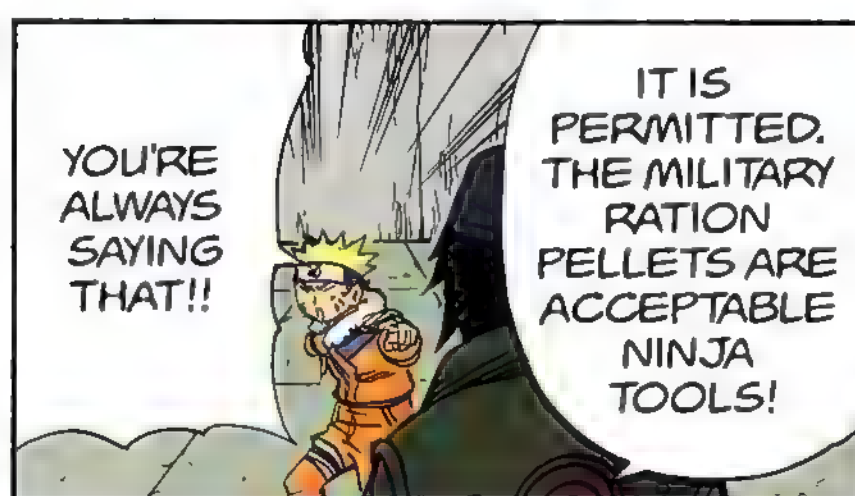
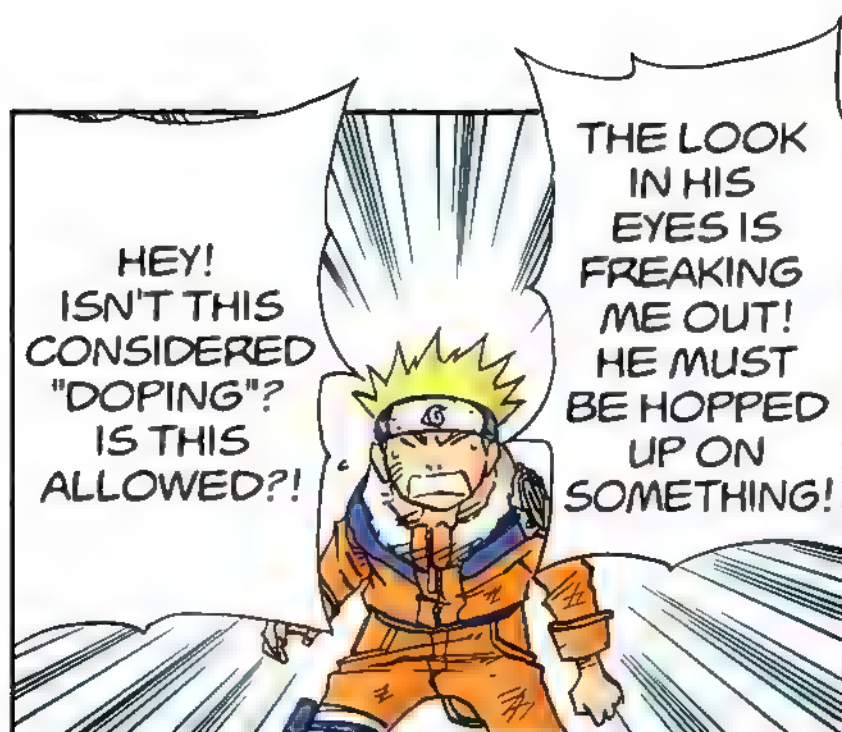


WOOF
WOOF!!

(NINJA
ART OF
HUMAN
MIMICRY!)



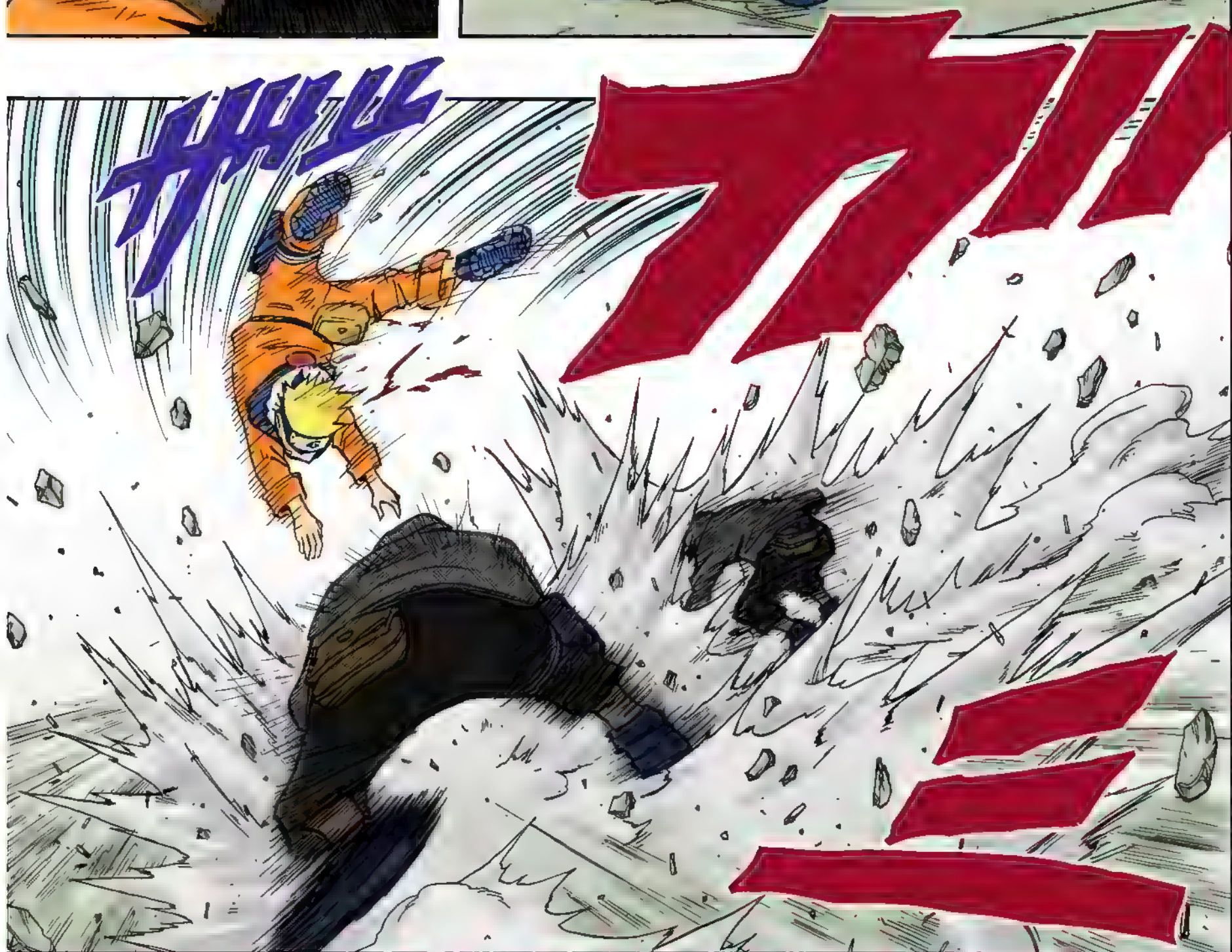
JUJIN
BLIN-
SHIN!
MAN-
BEAST
DOPPEL-
GANG-
ERS!

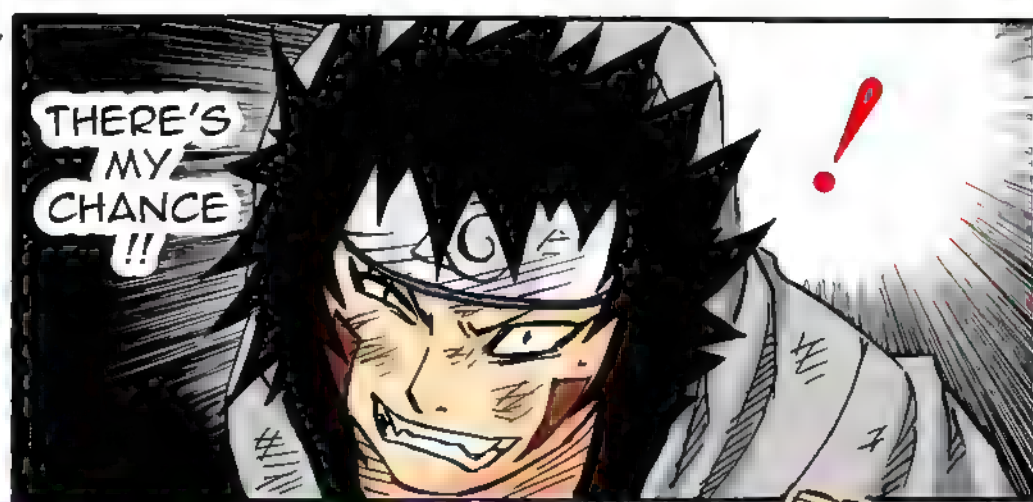
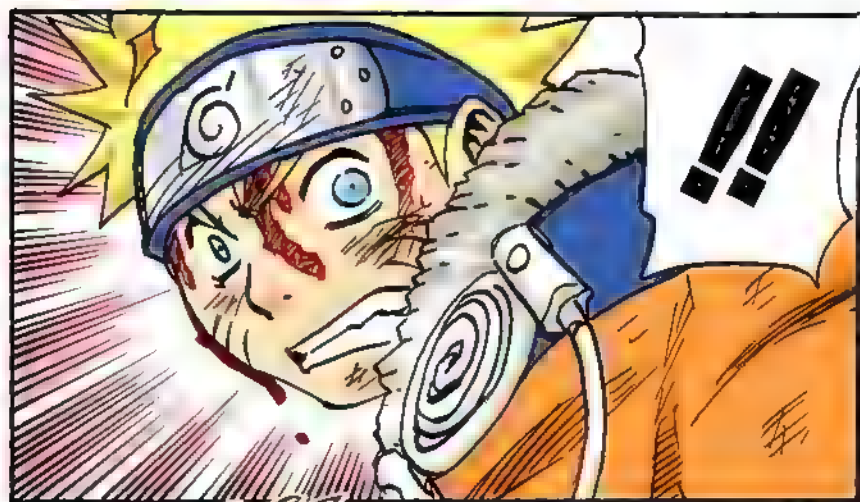
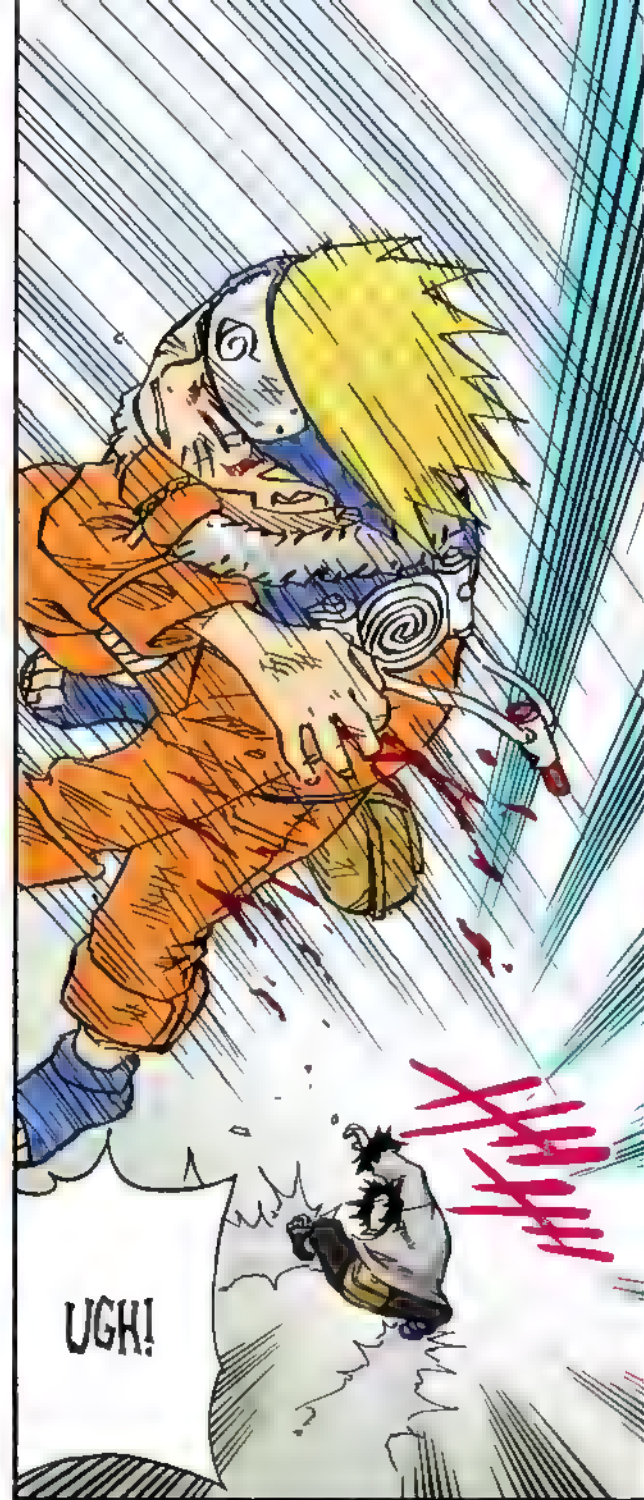
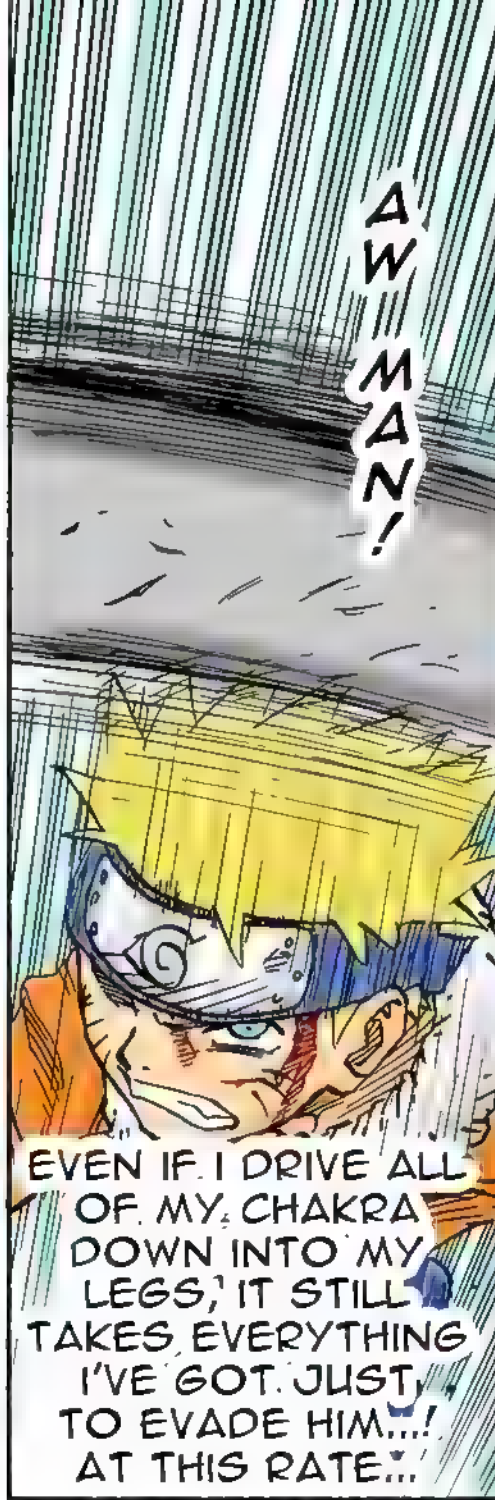


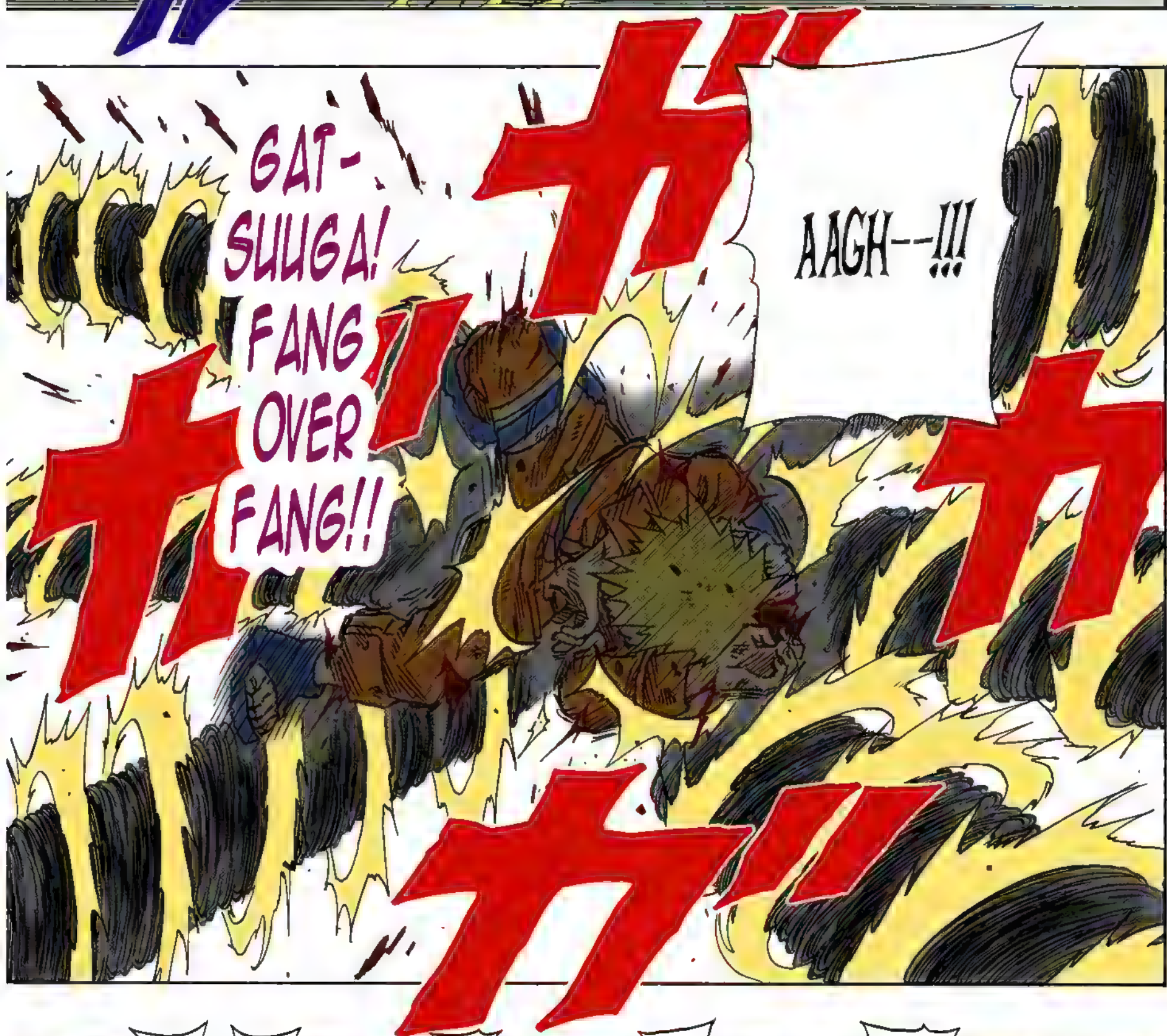


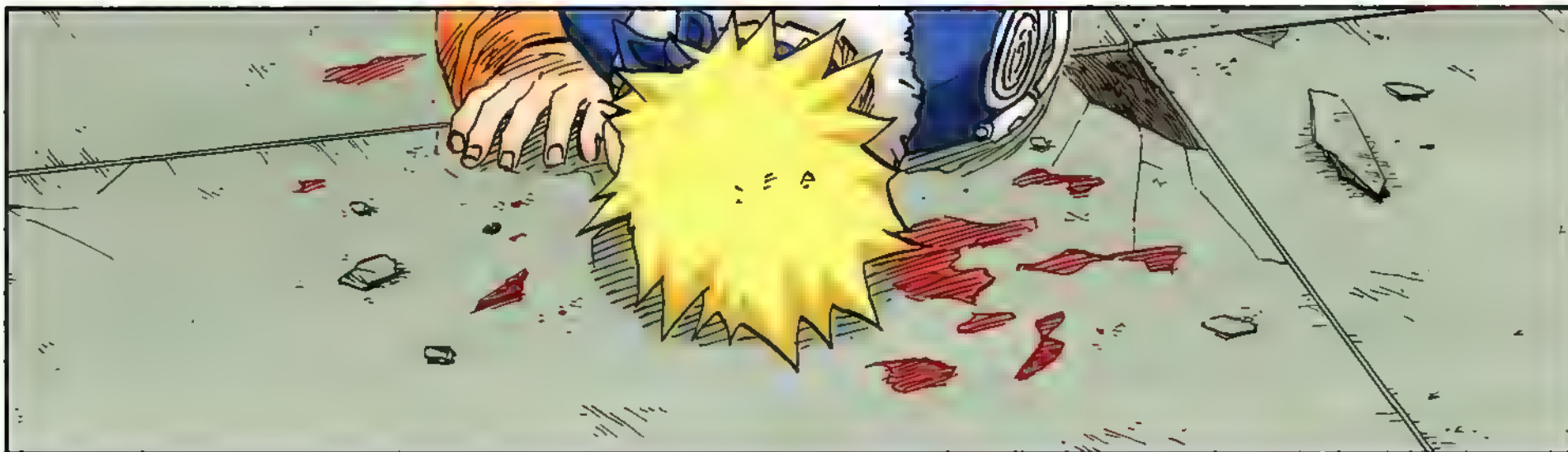
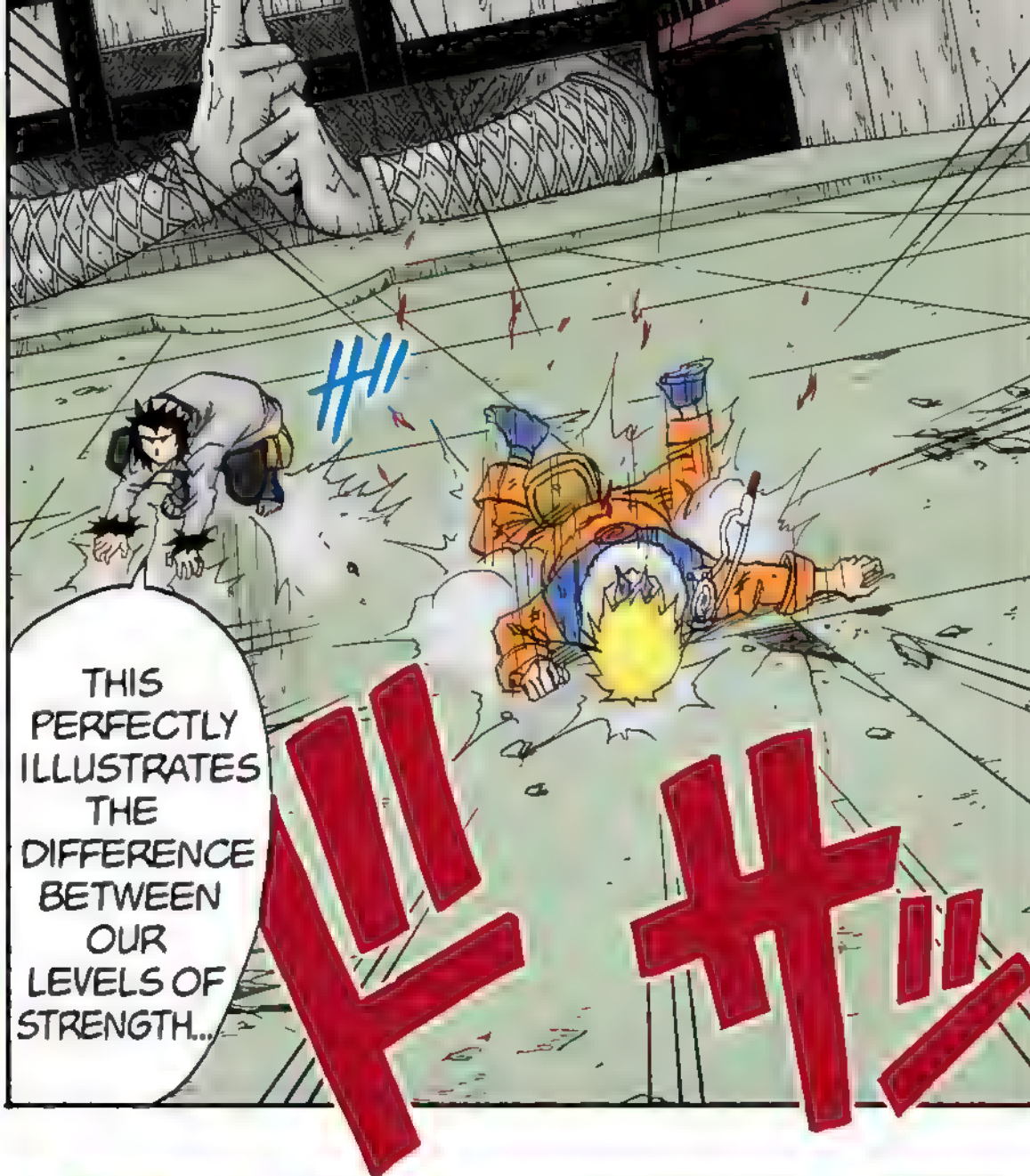
SHIKYAKU
NO
JUTSU!

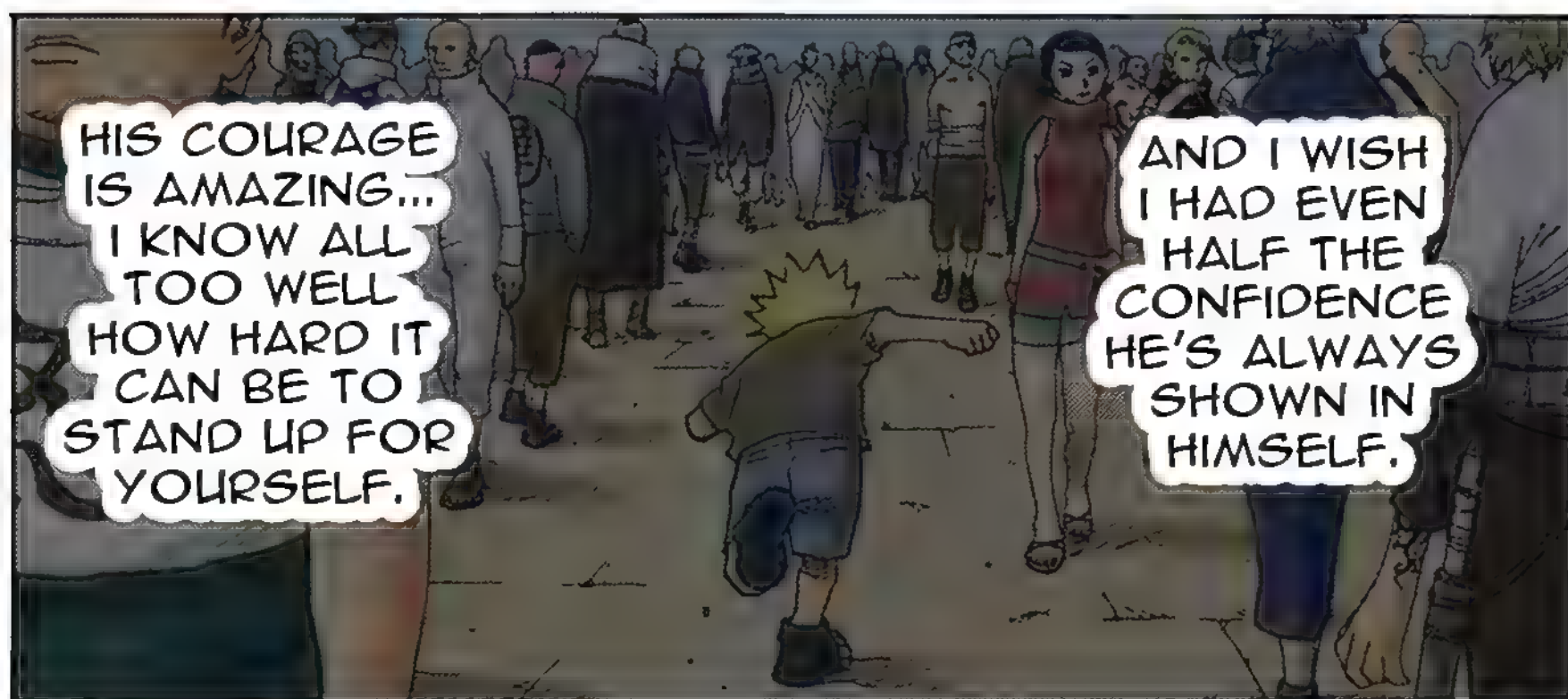
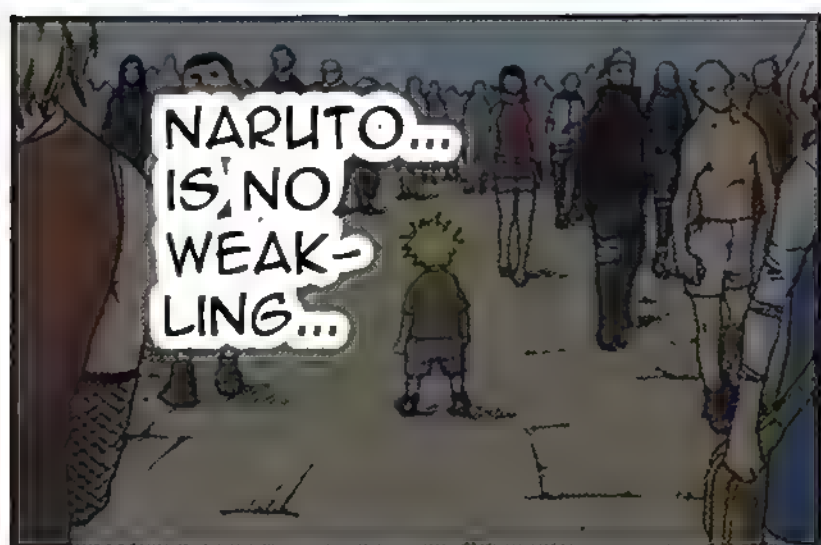
DOWN
ON ALL
FOURS
TECHNIQUE!

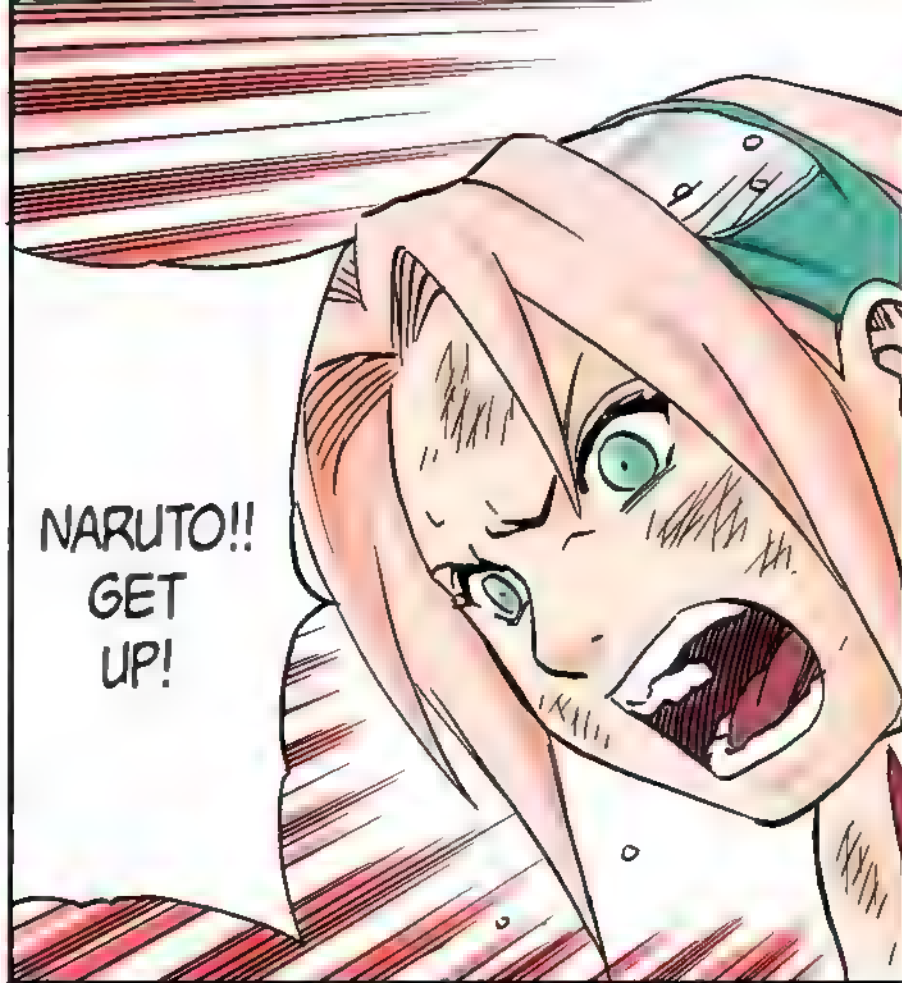
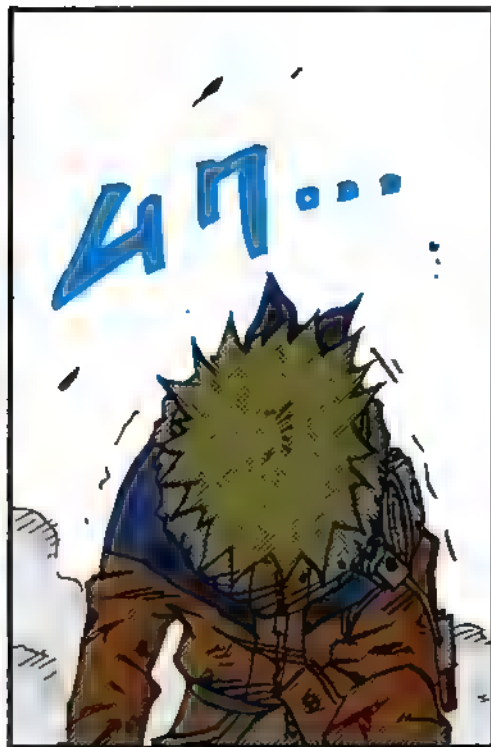
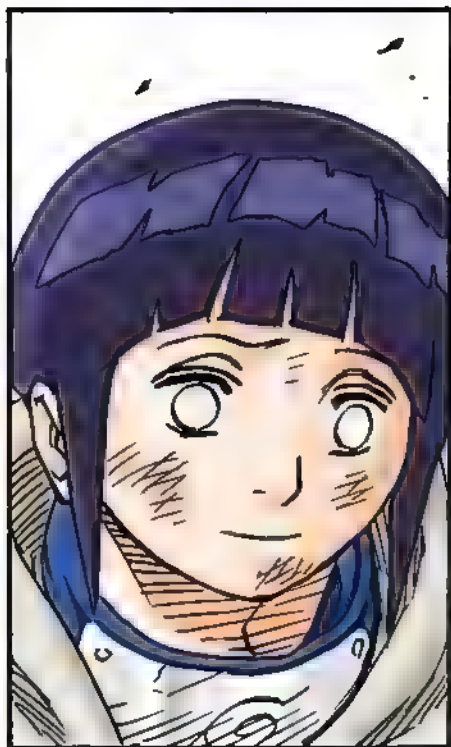


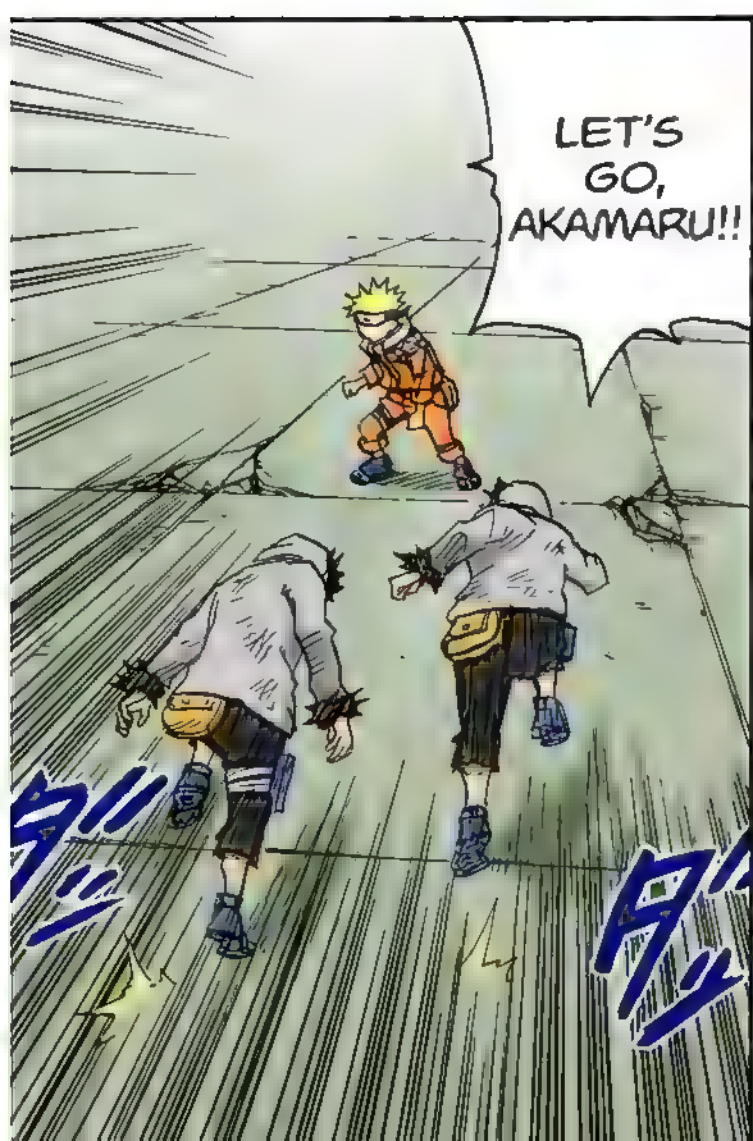
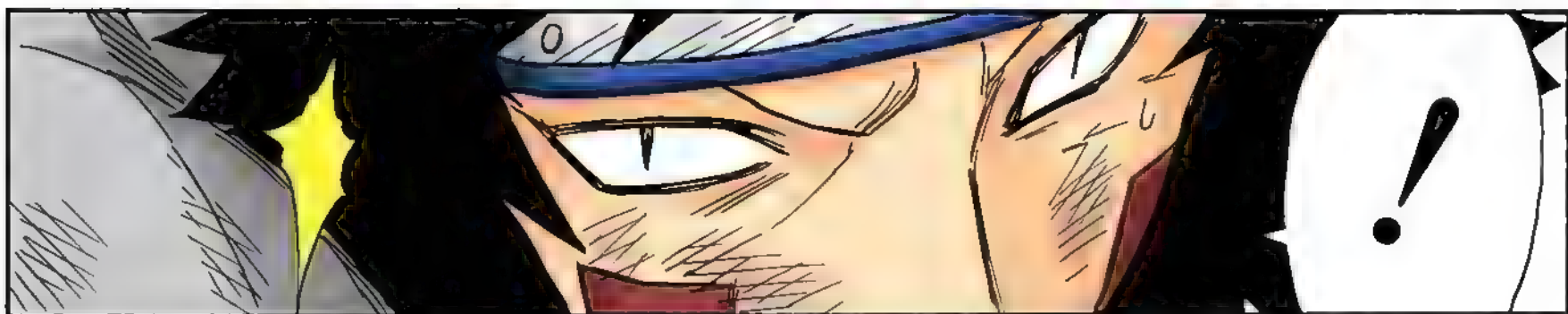




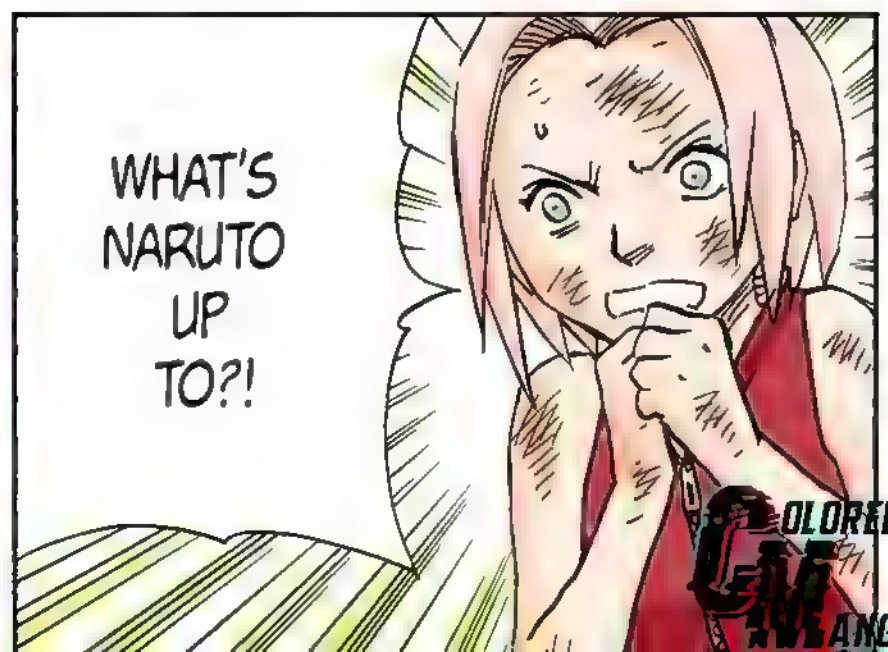
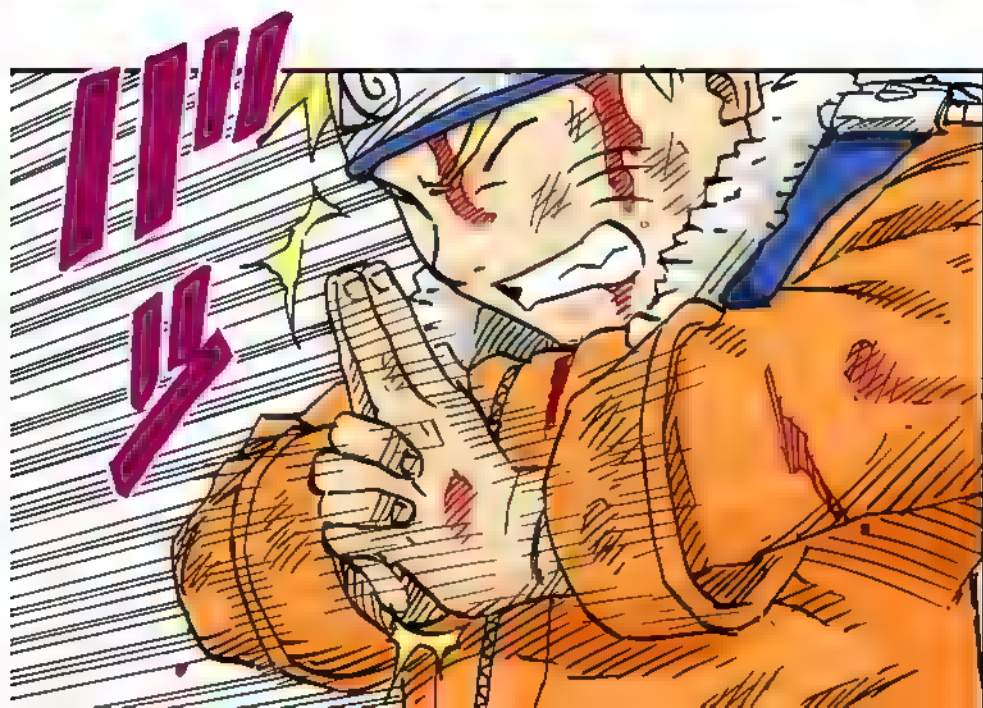
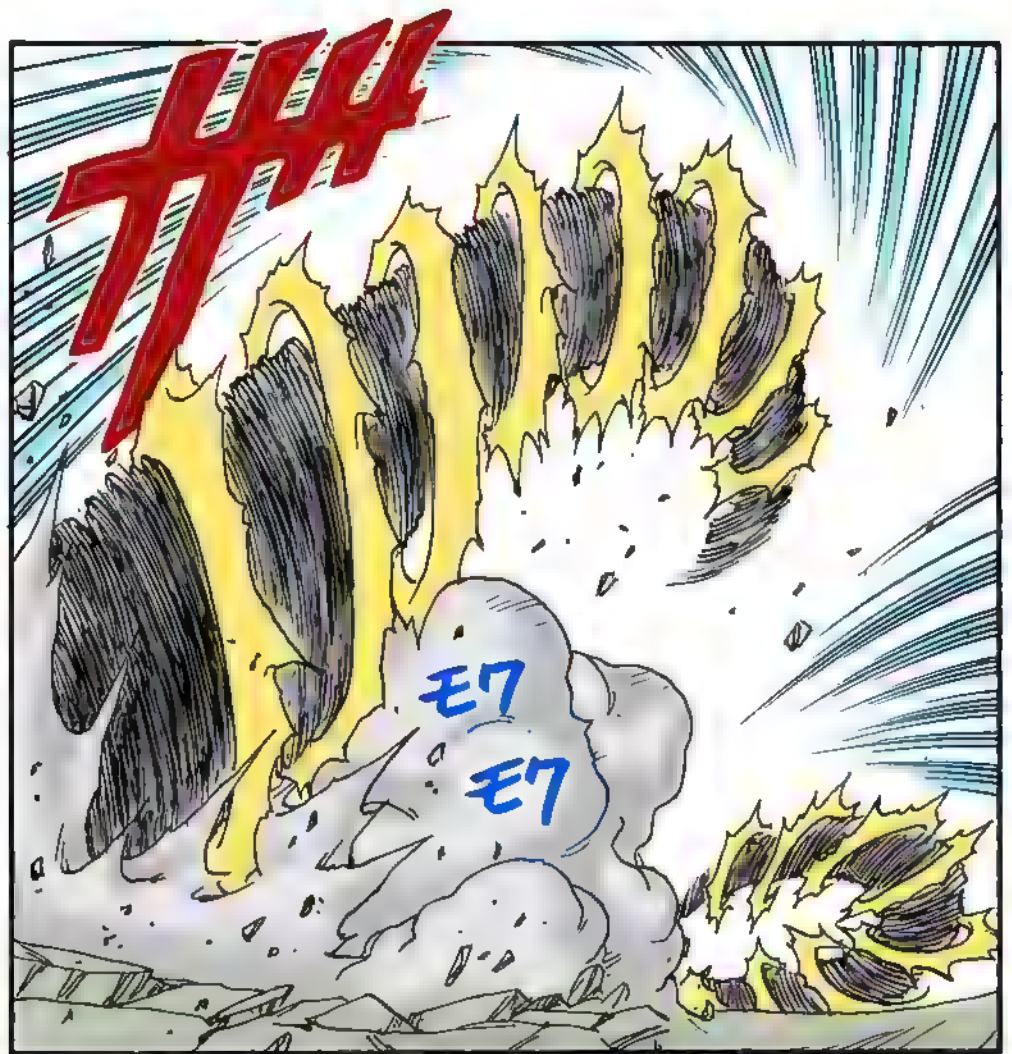
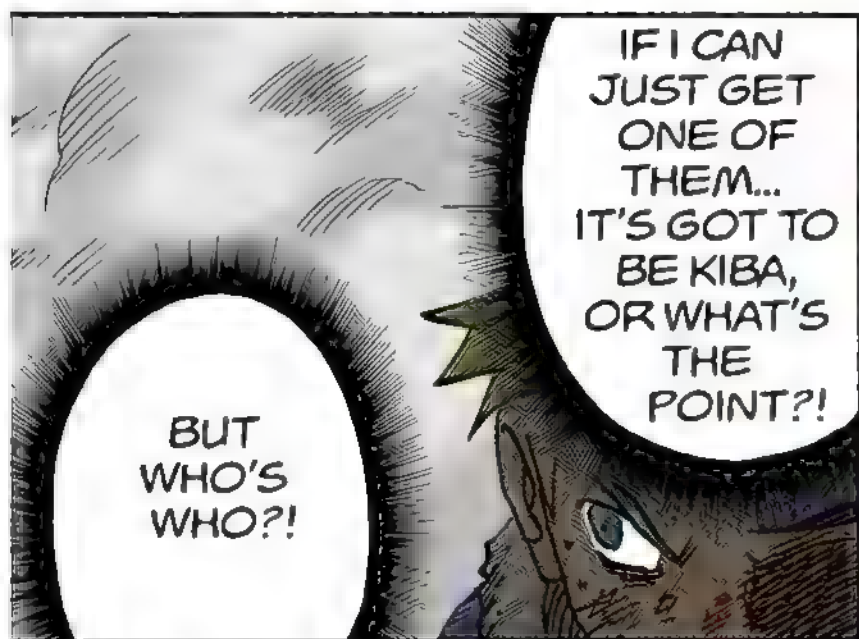
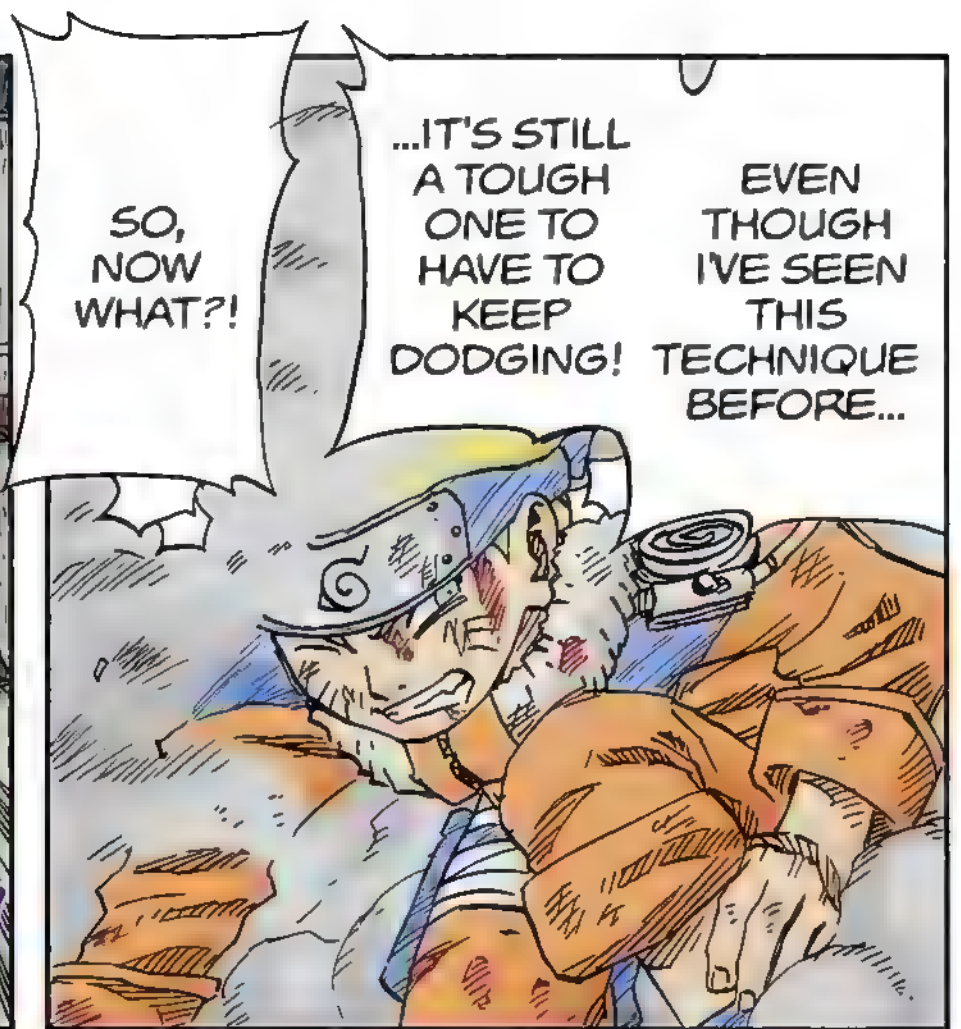
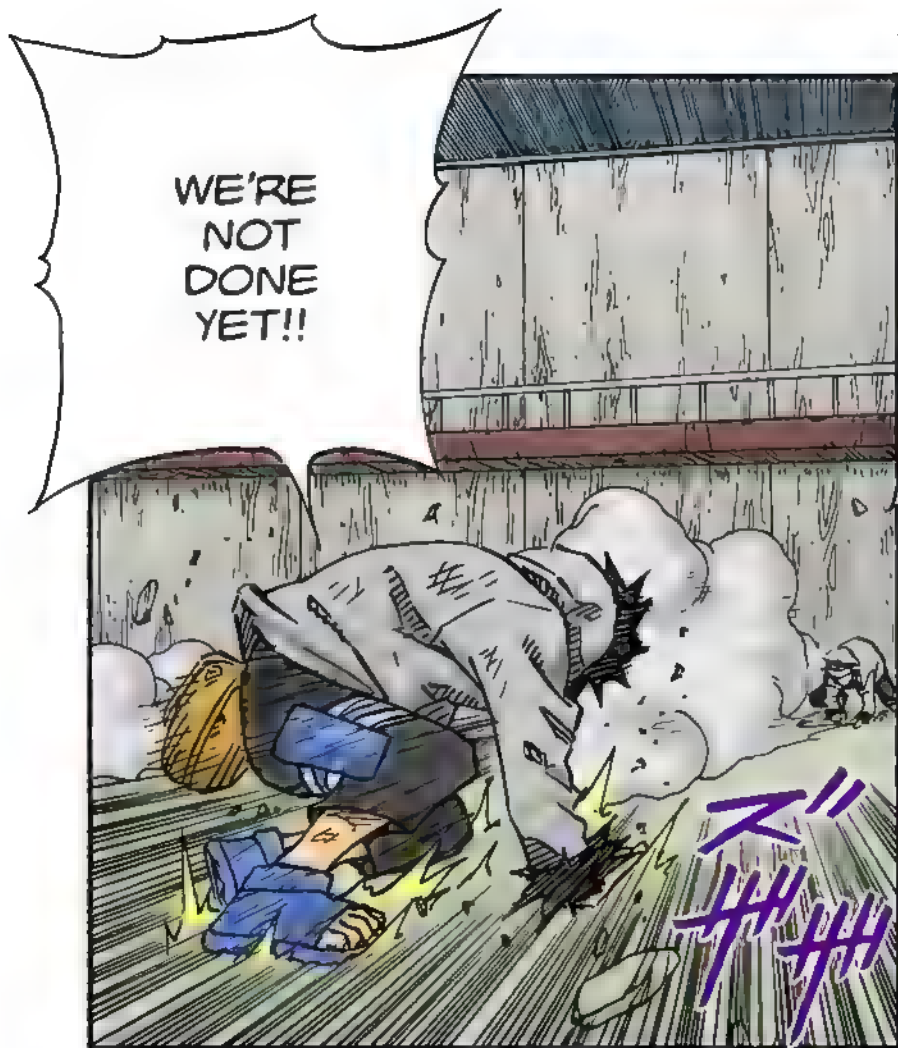


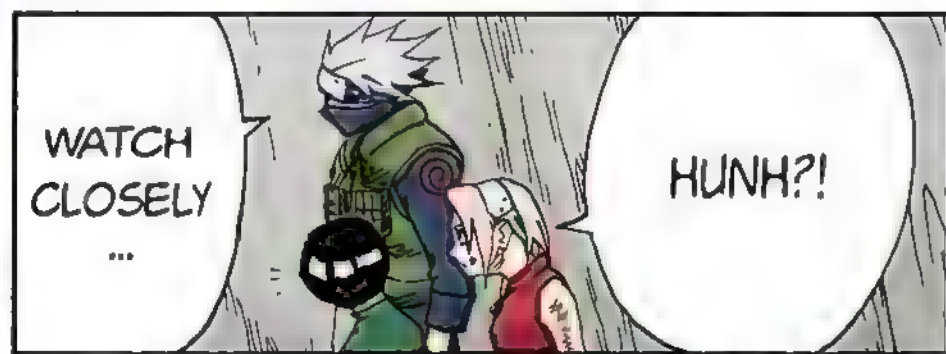
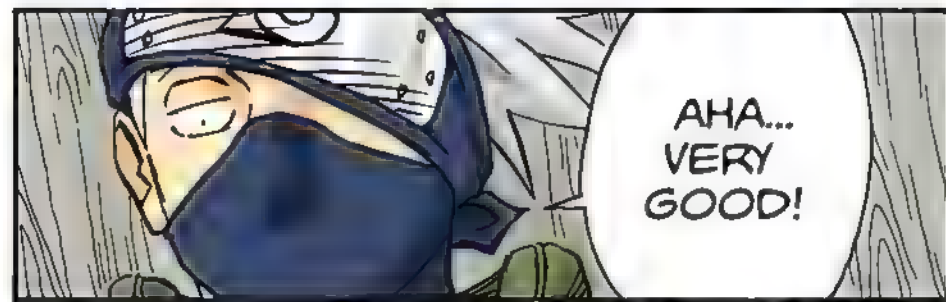
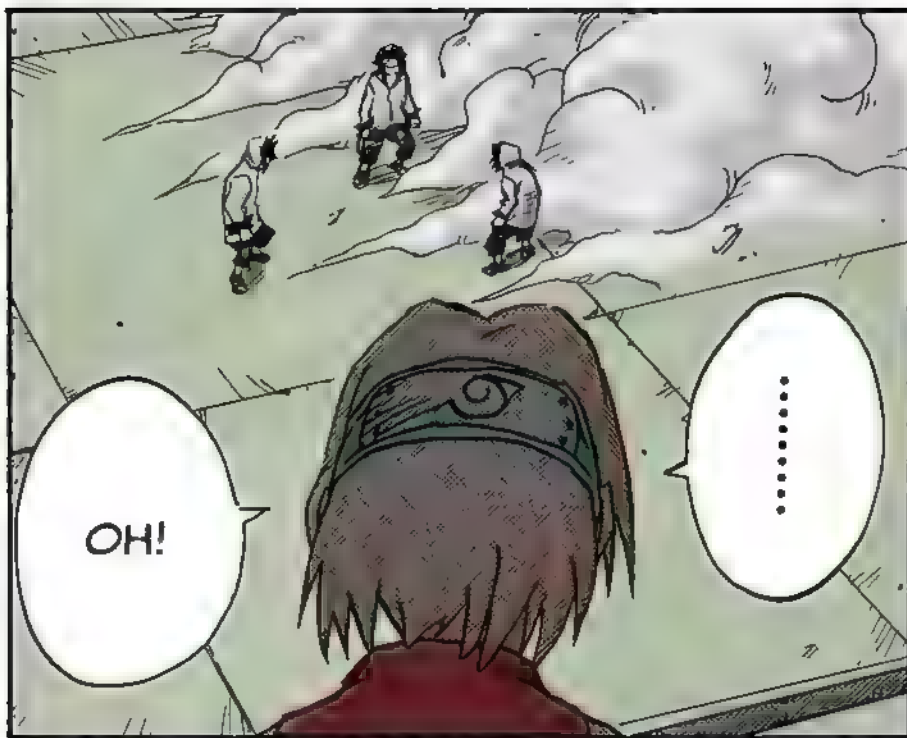
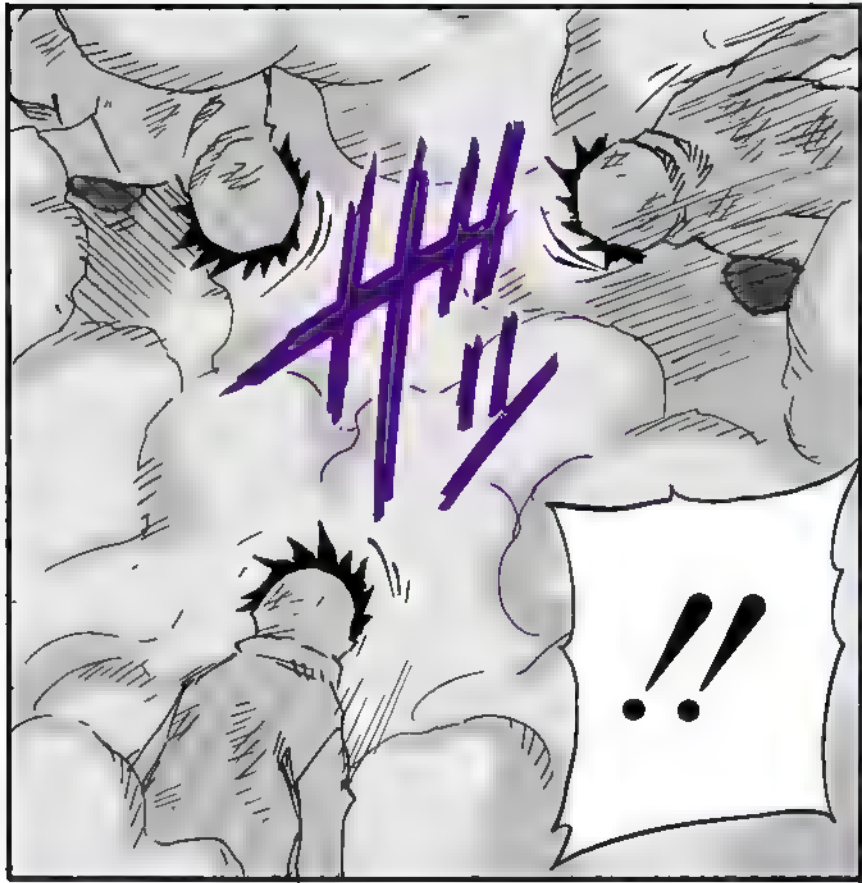
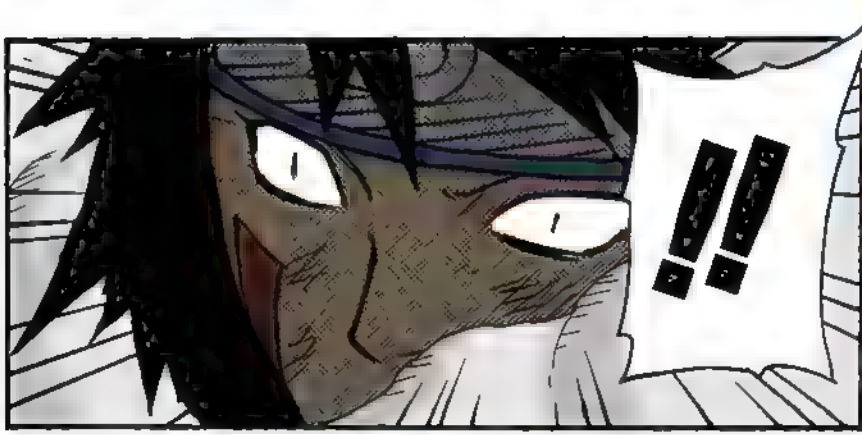
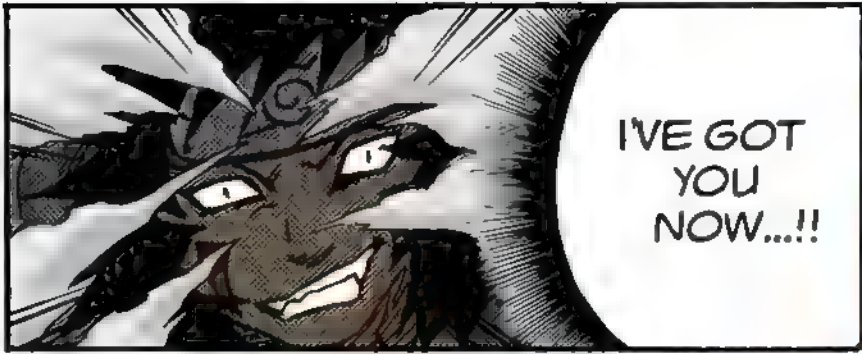


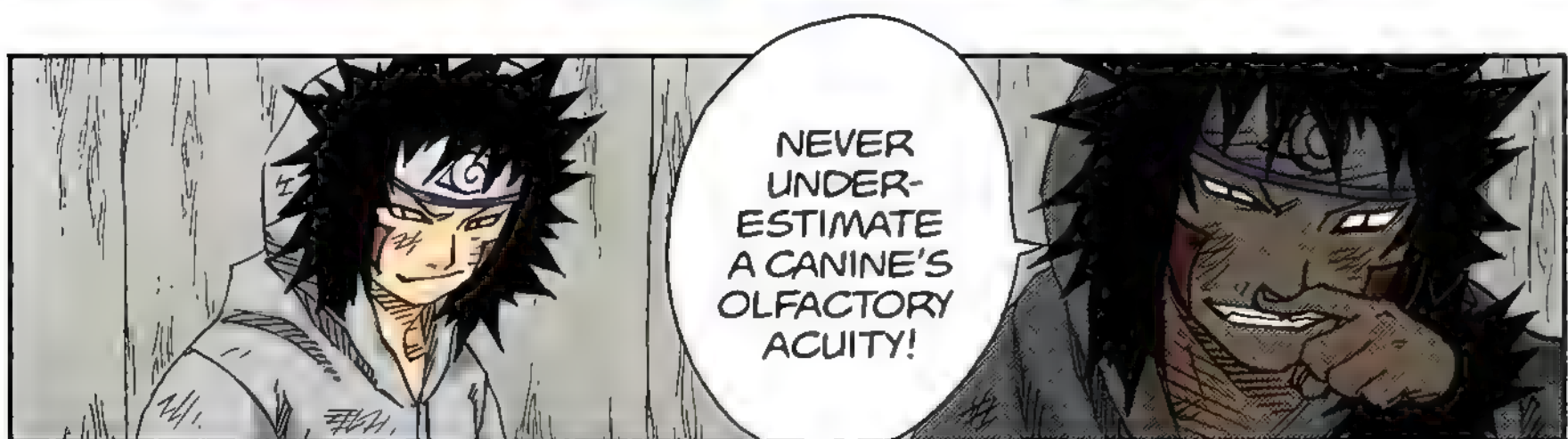
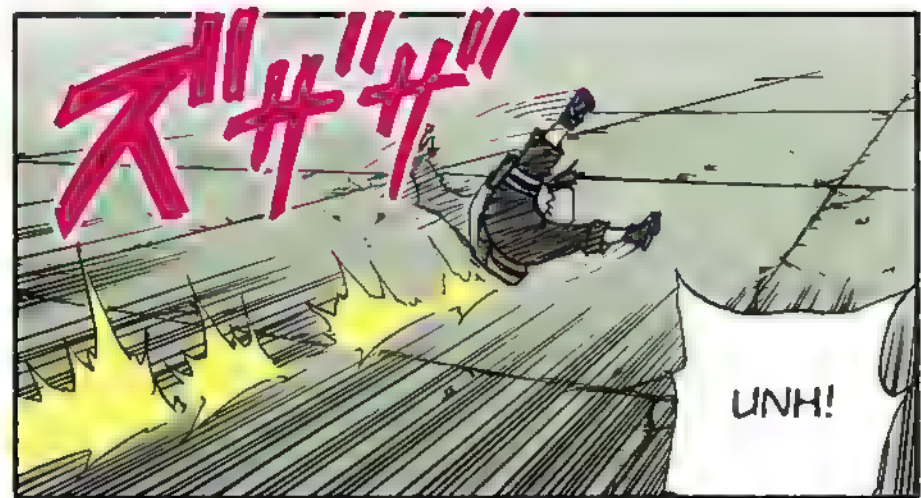


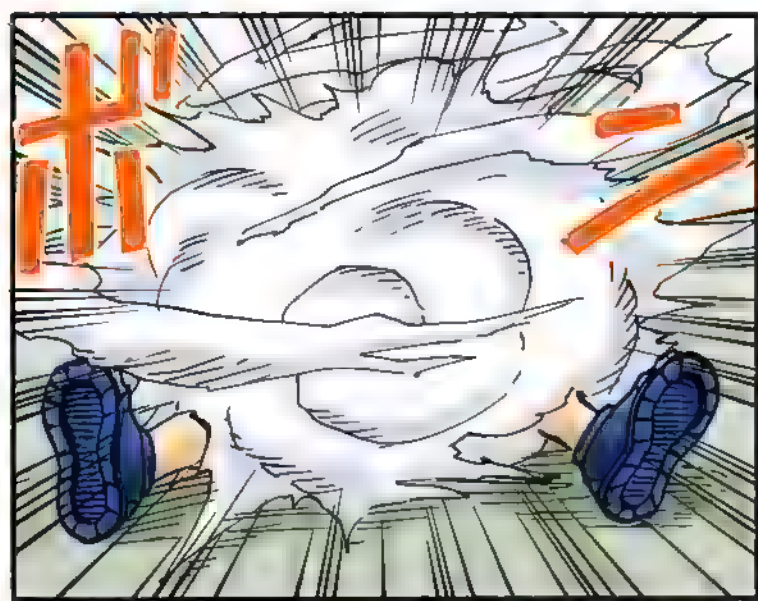
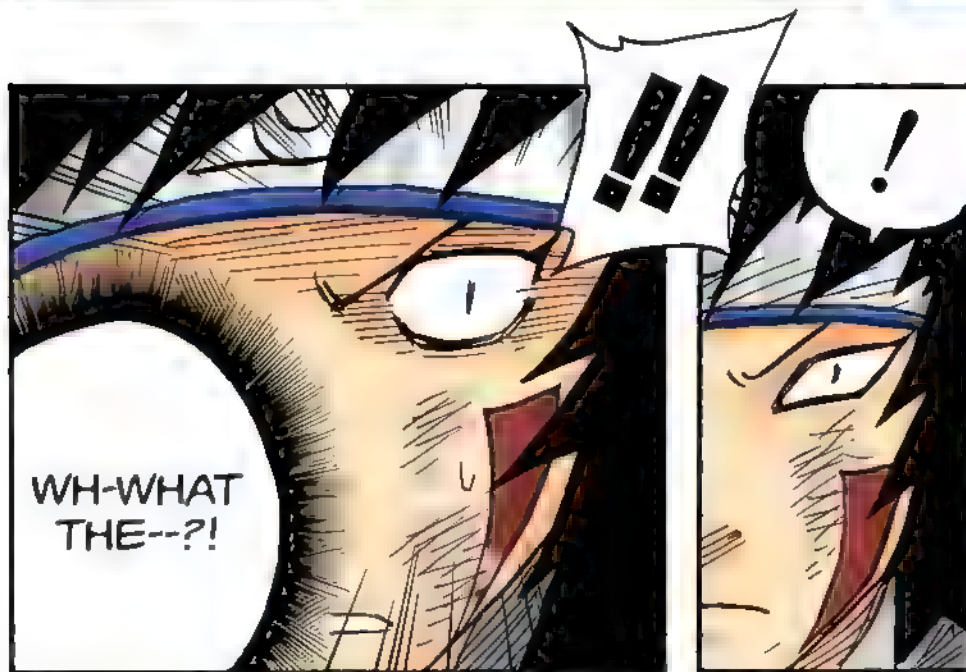
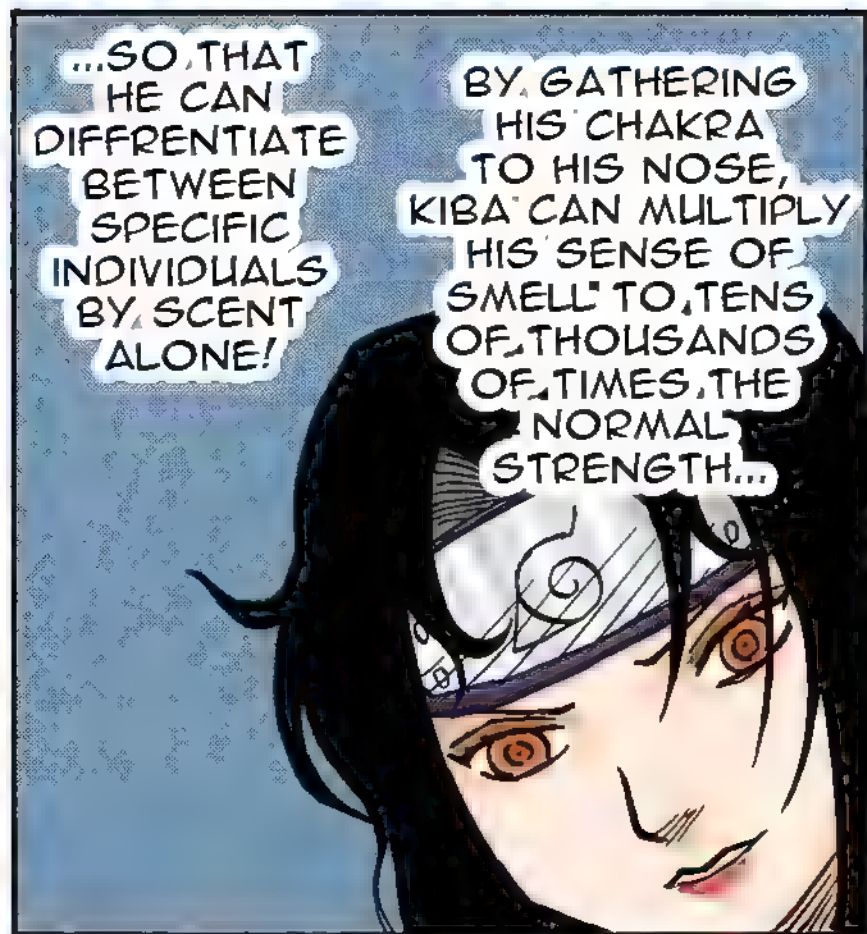






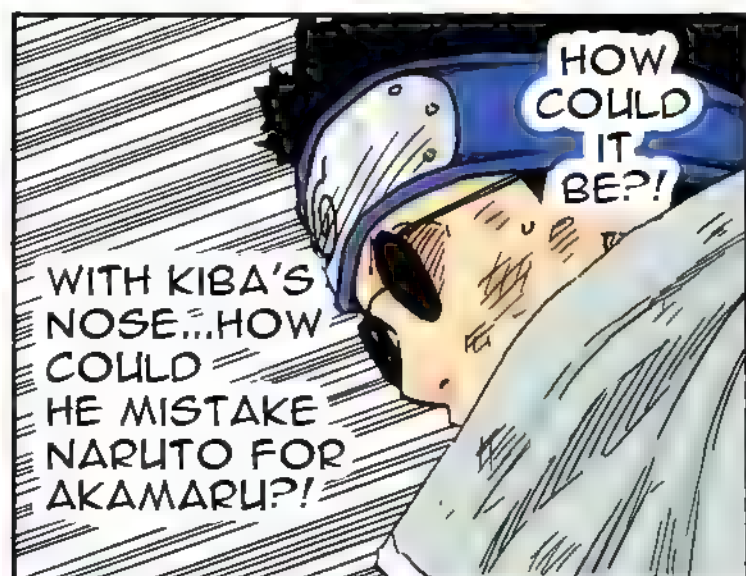
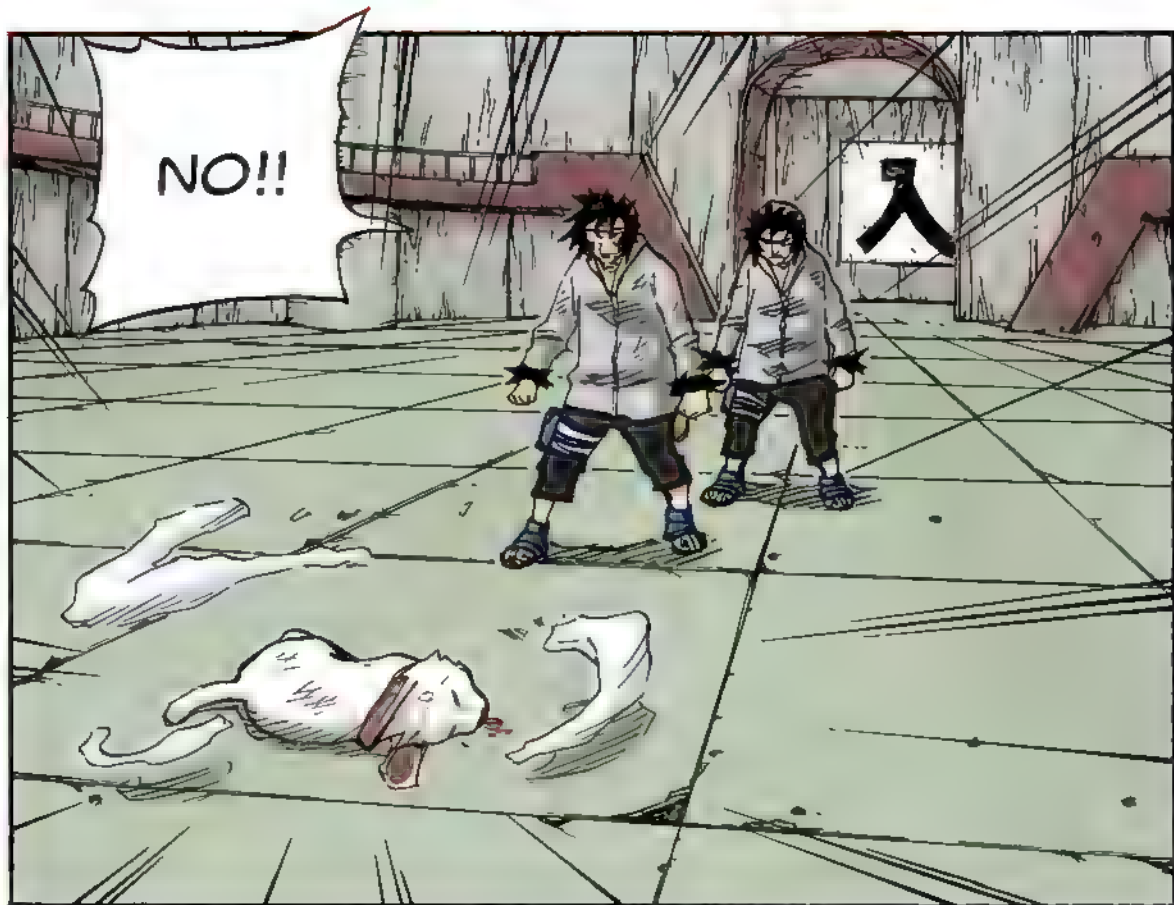


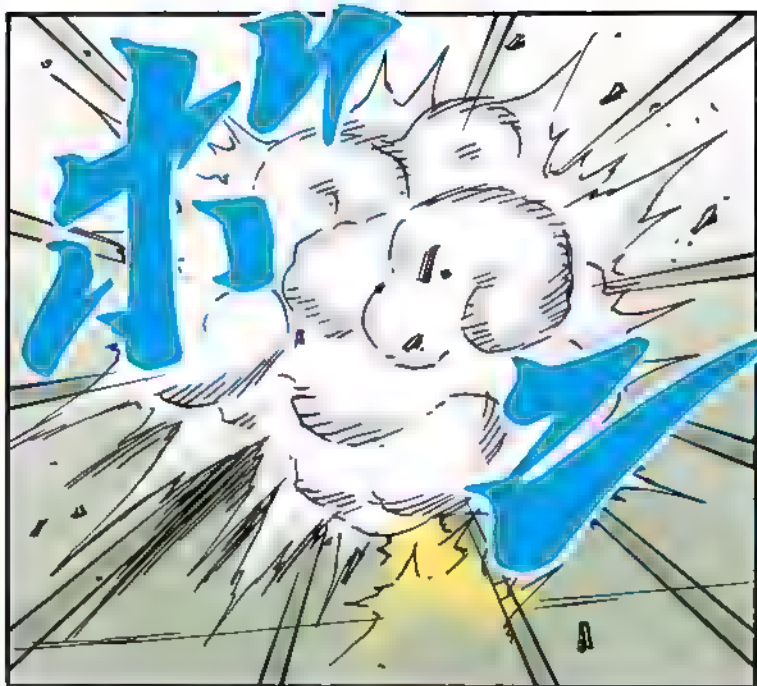






77 : NARUTO'S CLEVER SCHEME!!

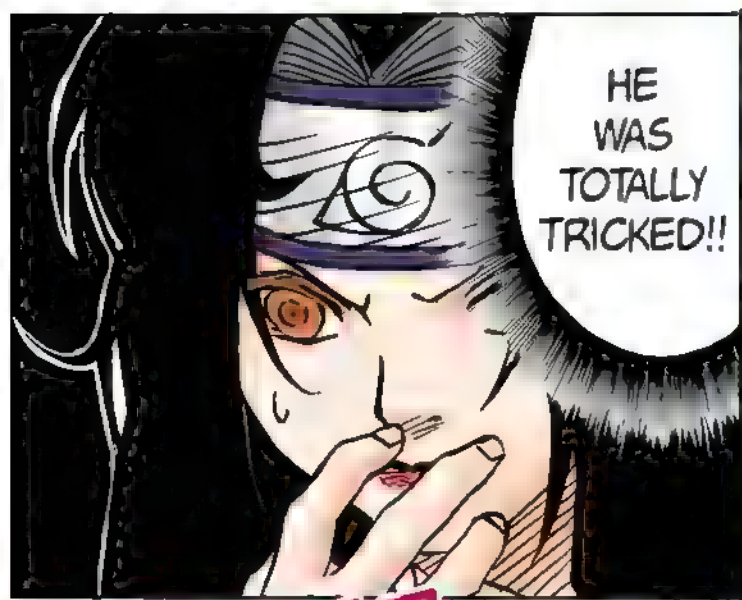


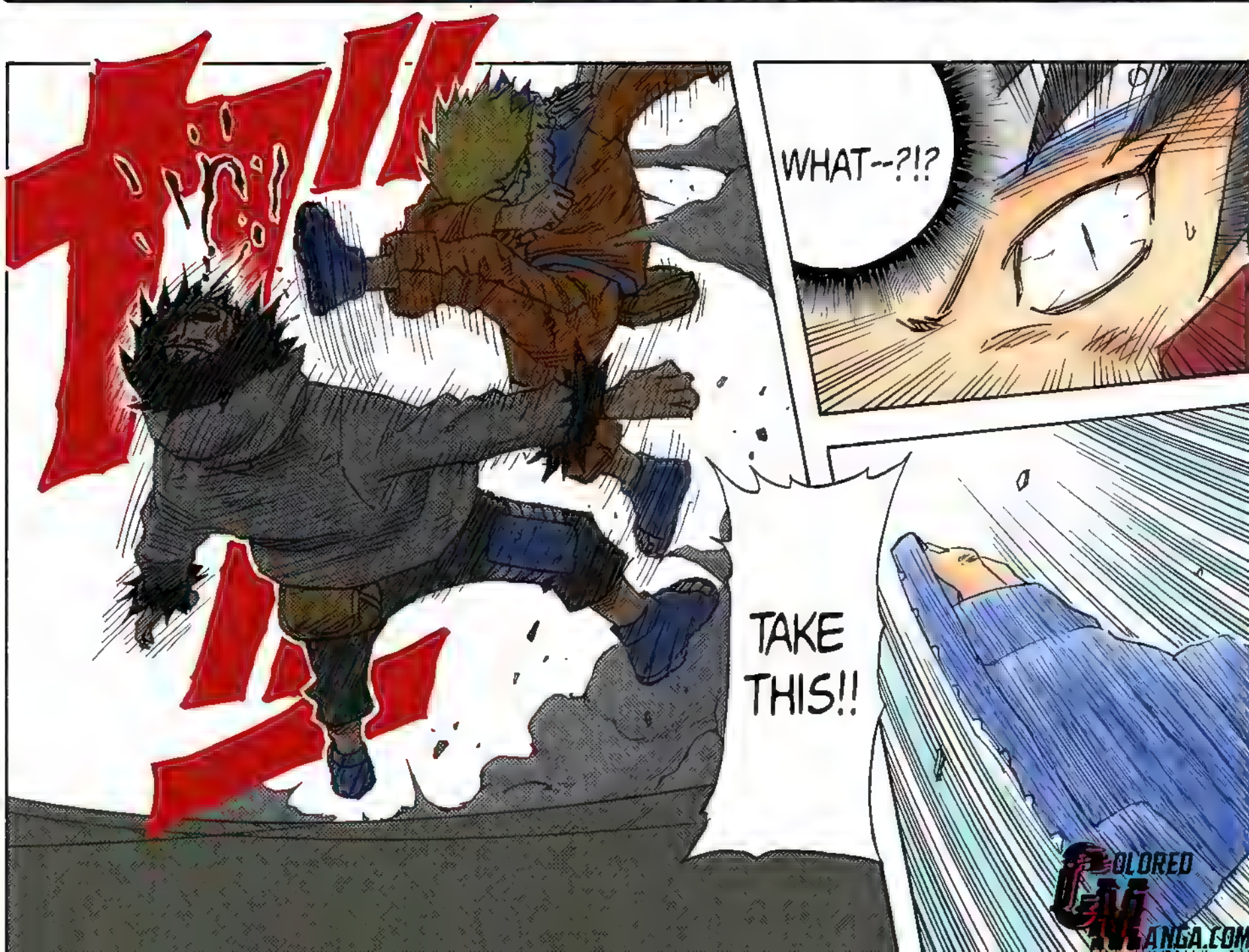
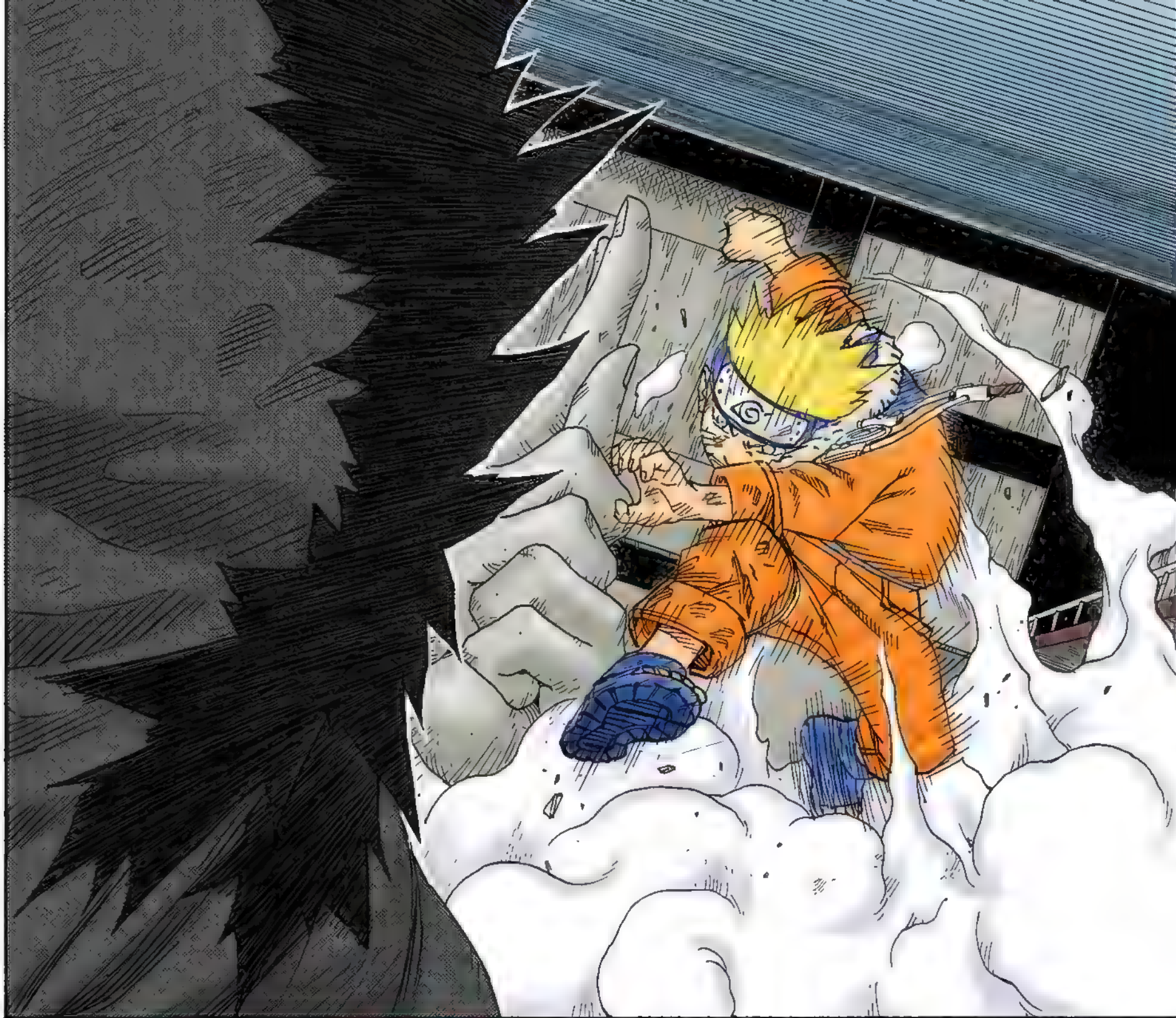


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77 :

NARUTO'S CLEVER SCHEMEN!!





HE HIT ME-!

NOW'S MY CHANCE! TRANSFORM!!

NARUTO AS KIBA

IMMEDIATELY TRANSFORMED INTO AKAMARU

BAM

NARUTO AS AKAMARU

BY TIMING IT PRECISELY, NARUTO TRICKED KIBA INTO THINKING THAT THE MAN-BEAST TRANSFORMATION HAD COME UNDONE, AND THAT HE'D TAKEN OUT AKAMARU INSTEAD!

KIBA

AKAMARU AS KIBA

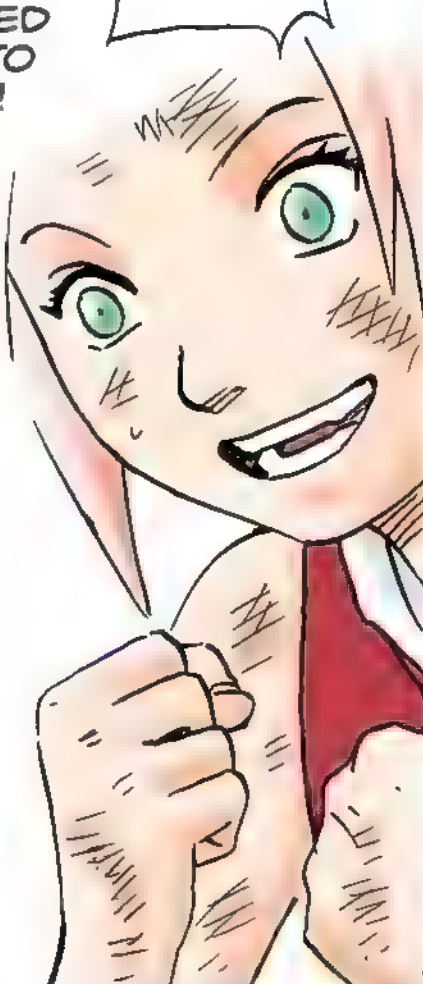
HUNH? I HIT AKAMARU?!

KIBA

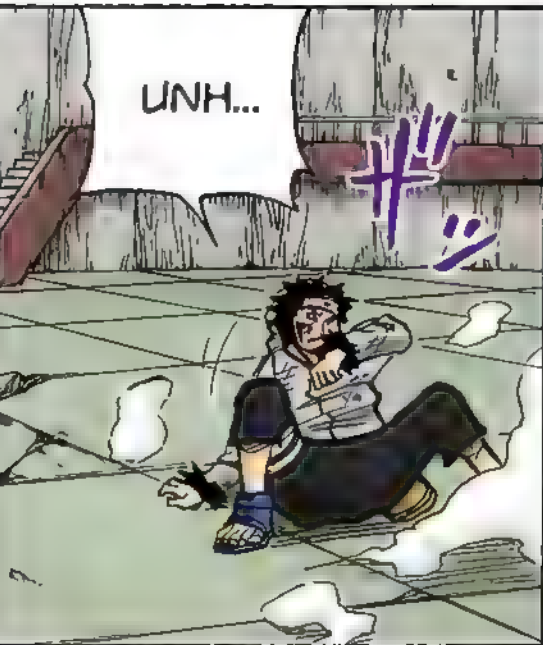
AKAMARU AS KIBA

I GET IT! AFTER KIBA'S NOSE EXPOSED NARUTO'S DECEIT, NARUTO WAITED UNTIL KIBA PUNCHED HIM... AND THEN TRANSFORMED HIMSELF INTO AKAMARU!!

!!



UNH...

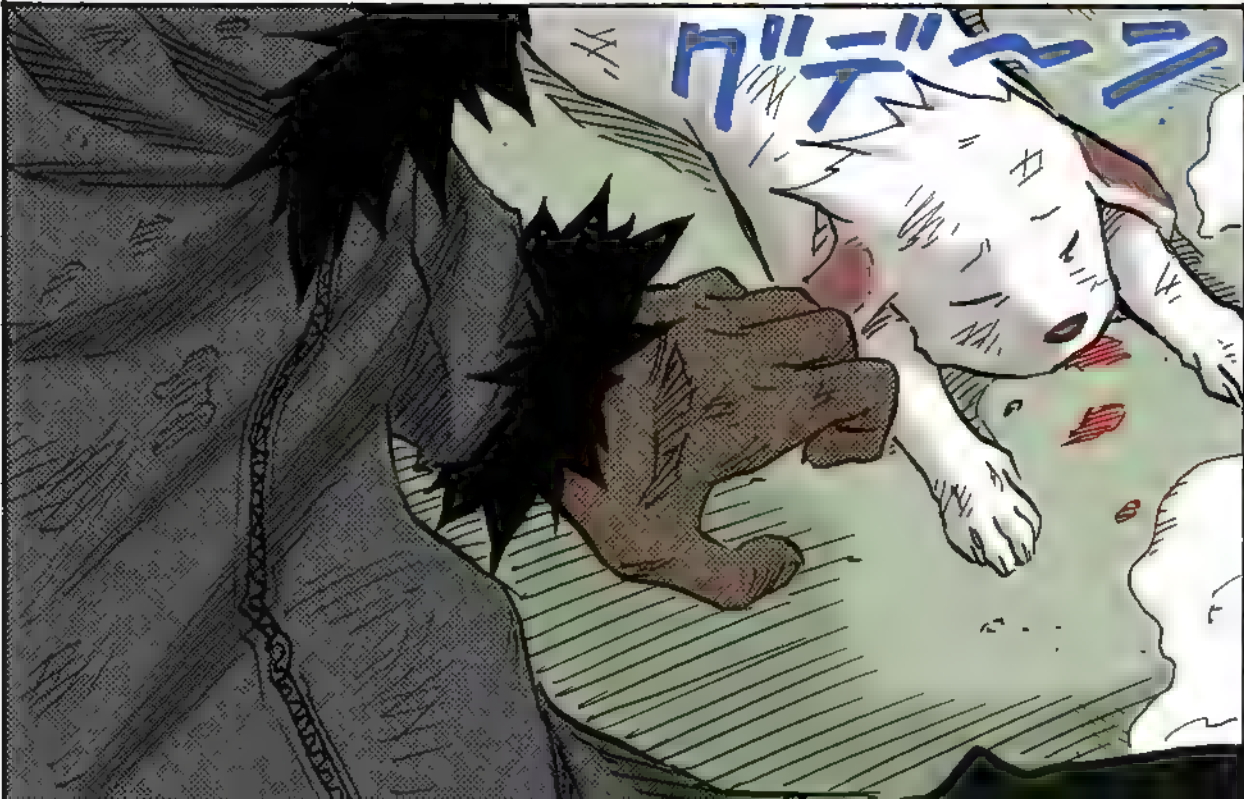


.....



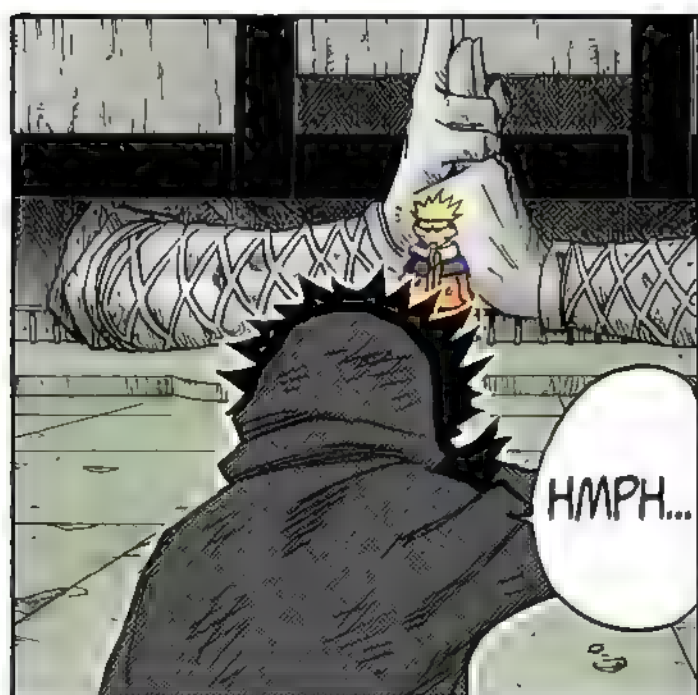
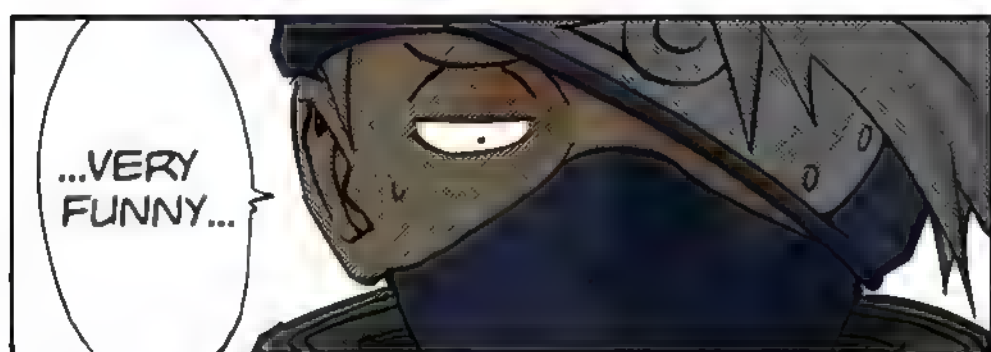
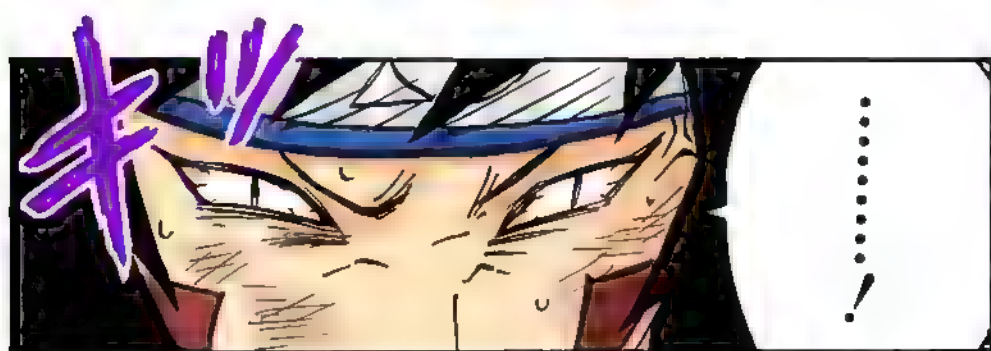
WHEN DID NARUTO GET SO SMART?!













I'LL WATCH HIS
MOVEMENTS
AND STRIKE
WHEN THERE'S
AN OPENING...

I CAN GET
HIM WITH
THE
DOWN
ON ALL
FOURS
TECHNIQUE!



SO I
STILL
HAVE
THE
ADVAN-
TAGE!

1
THERE'S
NO
WAY
HE
CAN
KEEP
UP
WITH
MY
MOVES.

KLAT

RUSTLE



FINALLY
TAKING ME
SERIOUSLY,
EH, KIBA?



THE
ENEMY
HAS
COOLED
OFF...

WHAT'S
YOUR NEXT
MOVE,
NARUTO?



IF I STAY
RELAXED,
THIS IS
DEFINITELY
A MATCH
I CAN
WIN!!

NOTHING
TO
WORRY
ABOUT!



...THAT
SHOULD
END
THIS
FAST!!

WELL,
THERE'S
A NEW
KILLER
MOVE
I'VE BEEN
PRACTICING...



SHIKYAKU
NO
JUTSU!
DOWN
ON'ALL
FOURS
TECHNIQUE!!

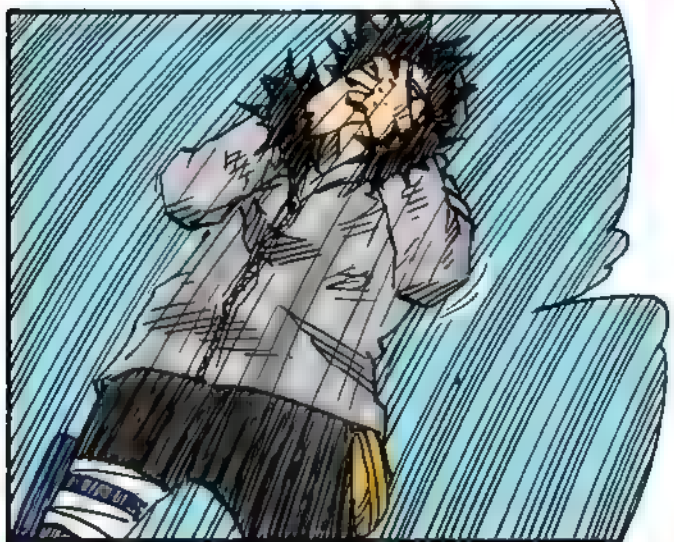
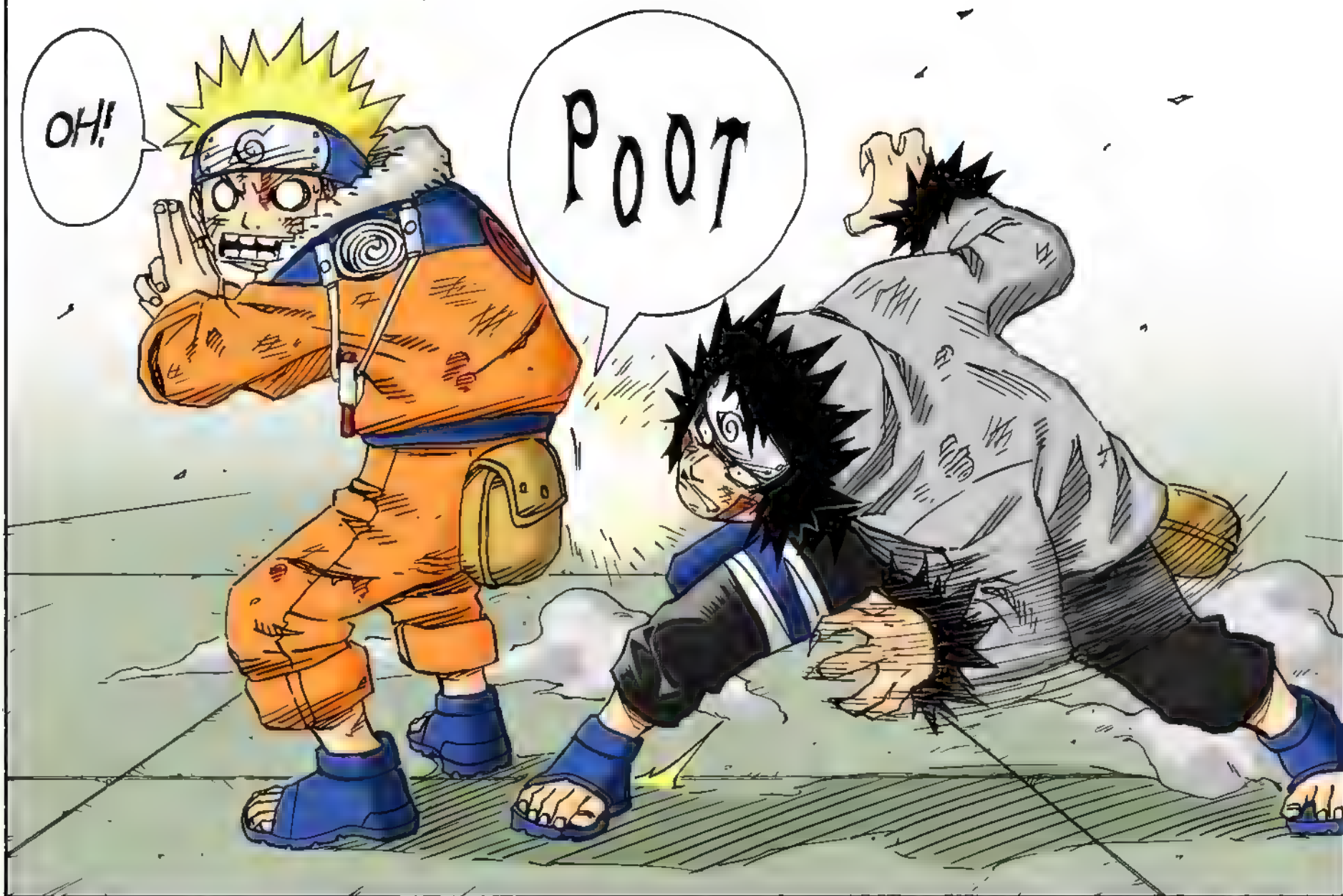
NOW...
NINJA
ART OF
BEAST
MIMICRY!!

HEY--!

AAARRH!!

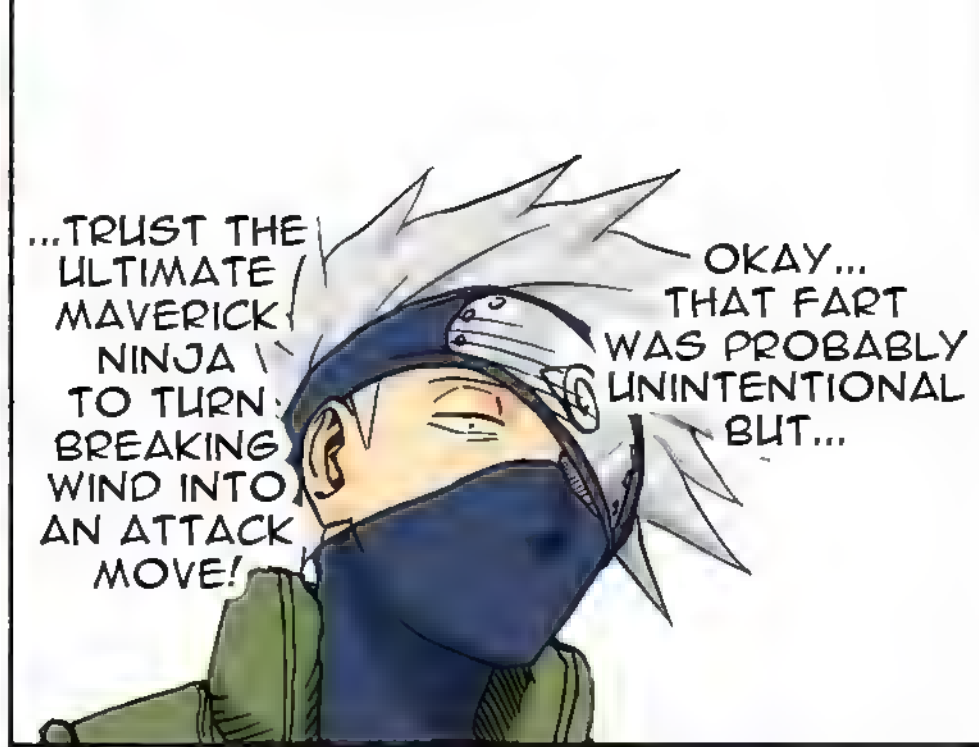
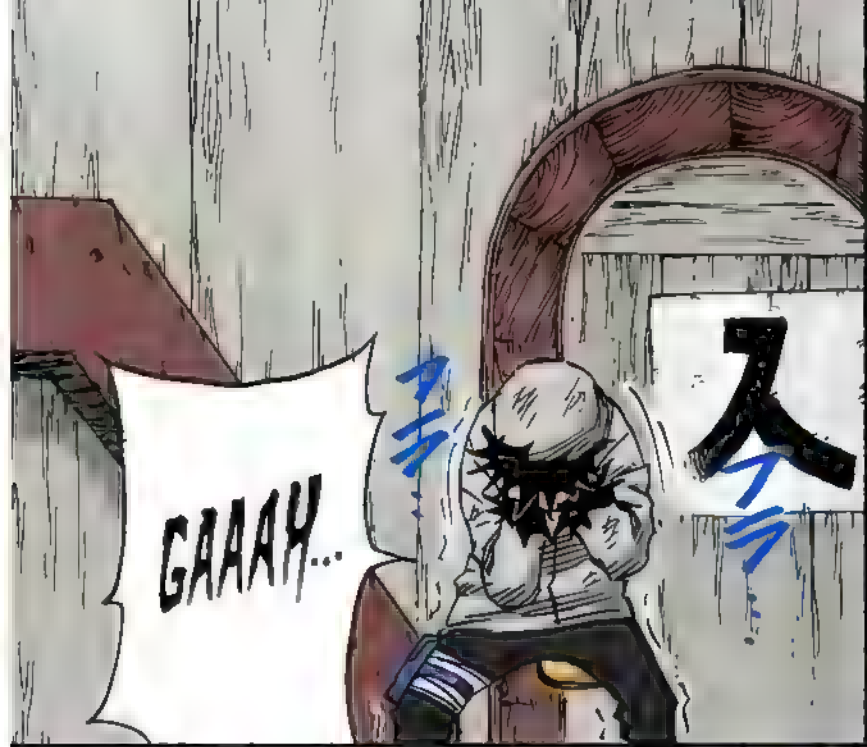
TOO
LATE!

TAKE
THIS--!!



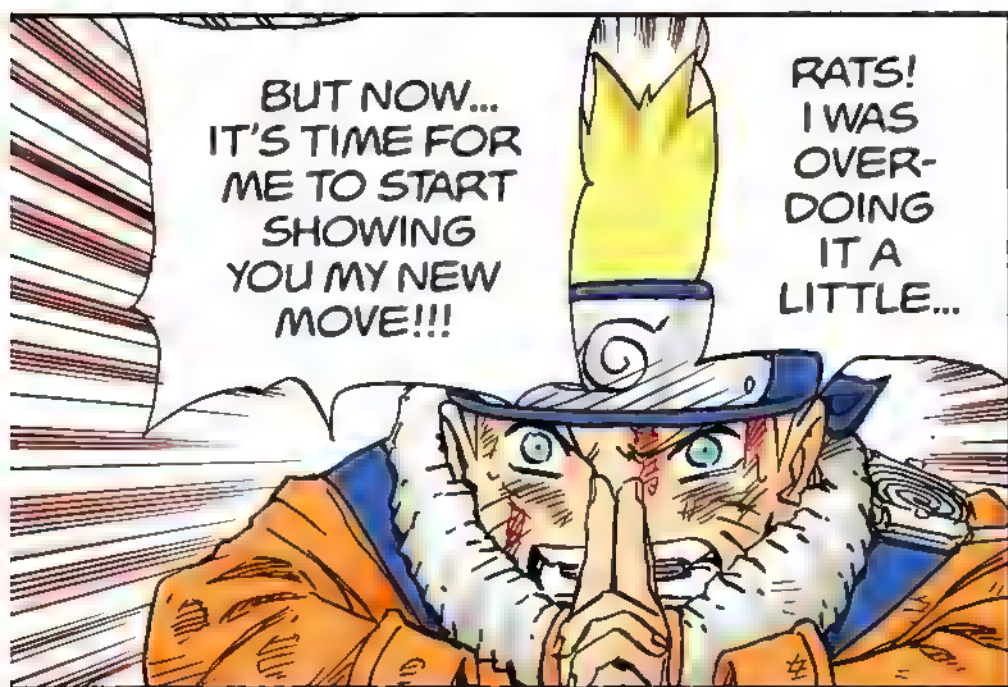
AARGH!!





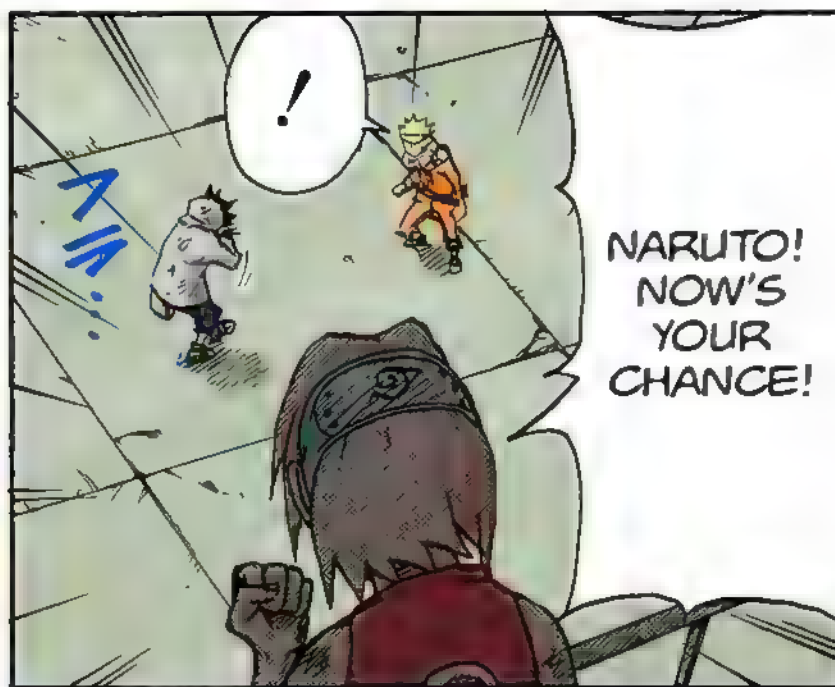
...TRUST THE
ULTIMATE
MAVERICK
NINJA
TO TURN
BREAKING
WIND INTO
AN ATTACK
MOVE!

OKAY...
THAT FART
WAS PROBABLY
UNINTENTIONAL
BUT...



BUT NOW...
IT'S TIME FOR
ME TO START
SHOWING
YOU MY NEW
MOVE!!!

RATS!
I WAS
OVER-
DOING
IT A
LITTLE...

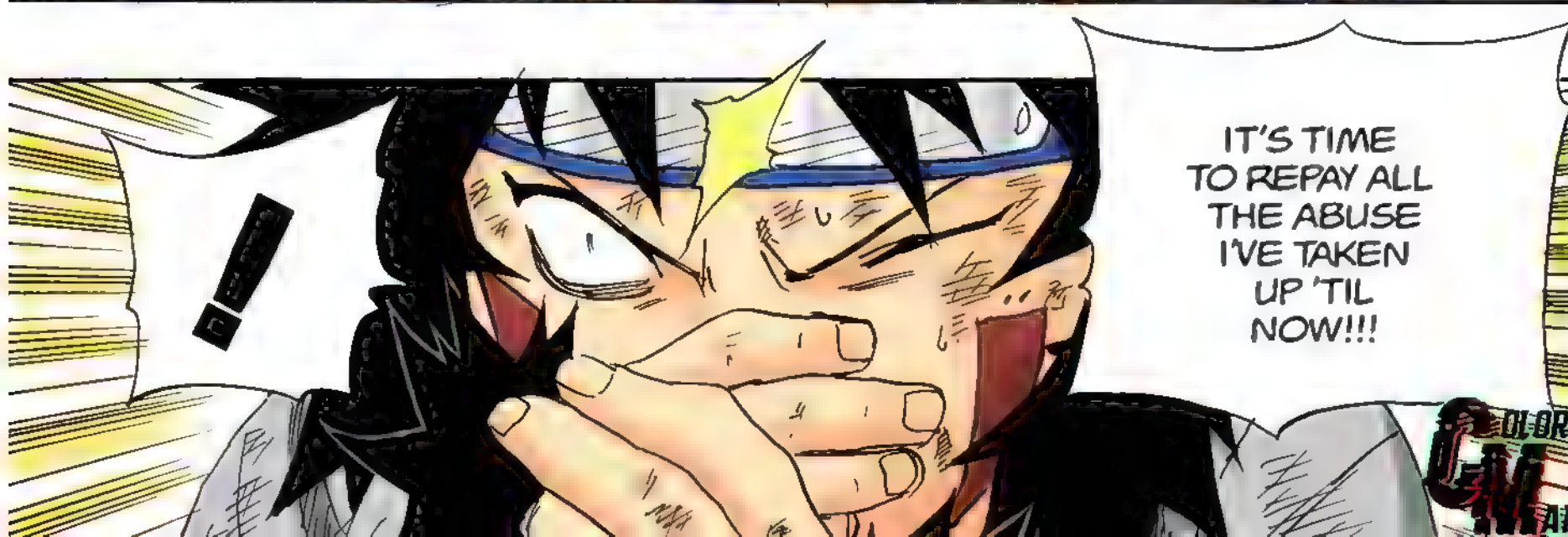


NARUTO!
NOW'S
YOUR
CHANCE!

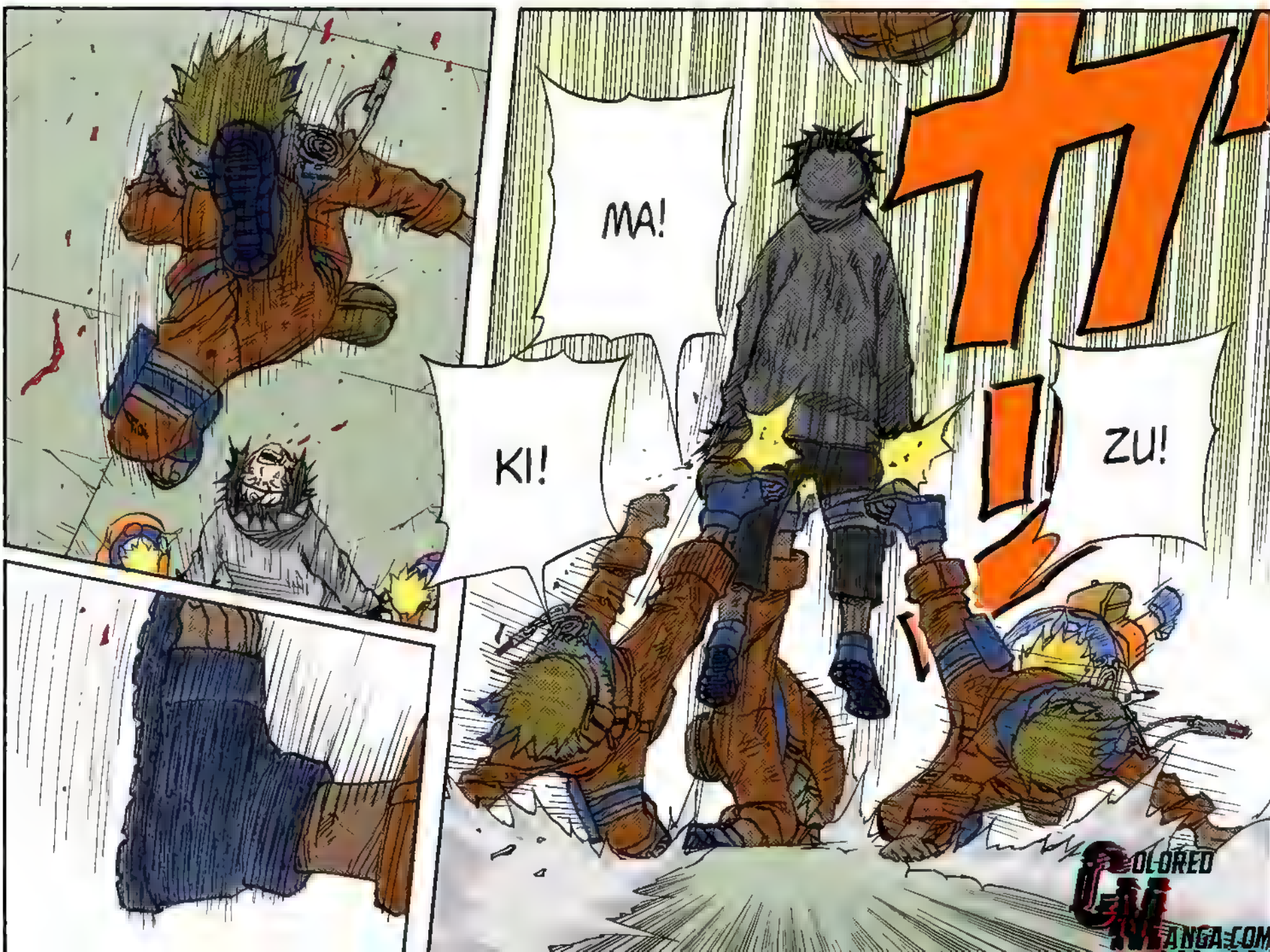


ALL
RIGHT!

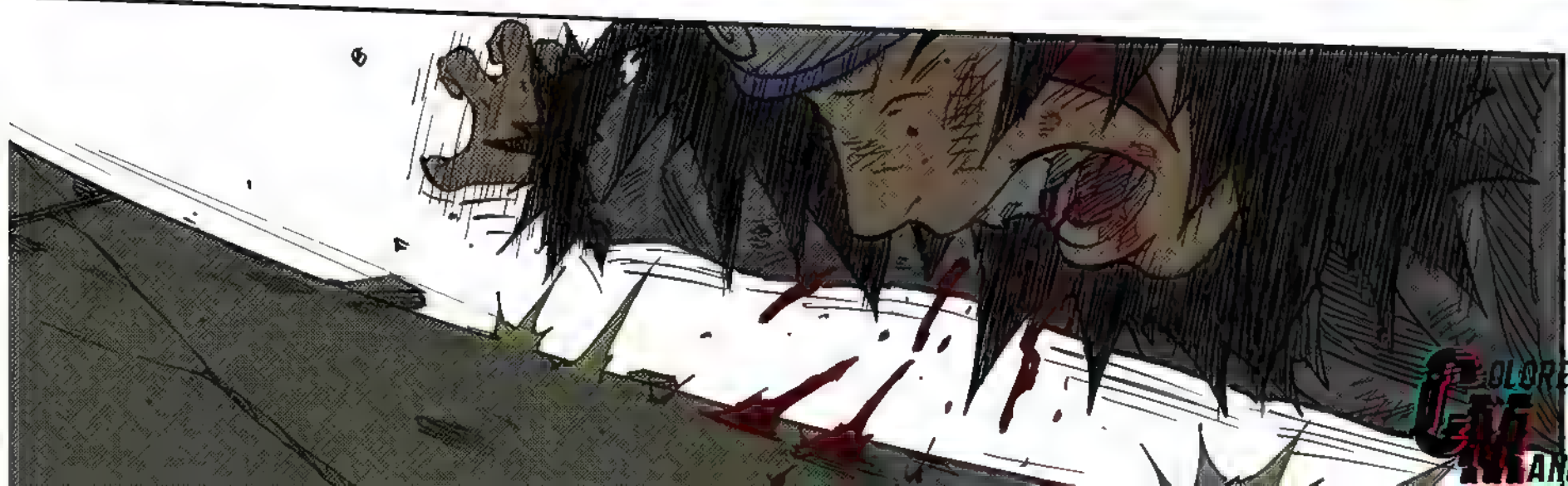
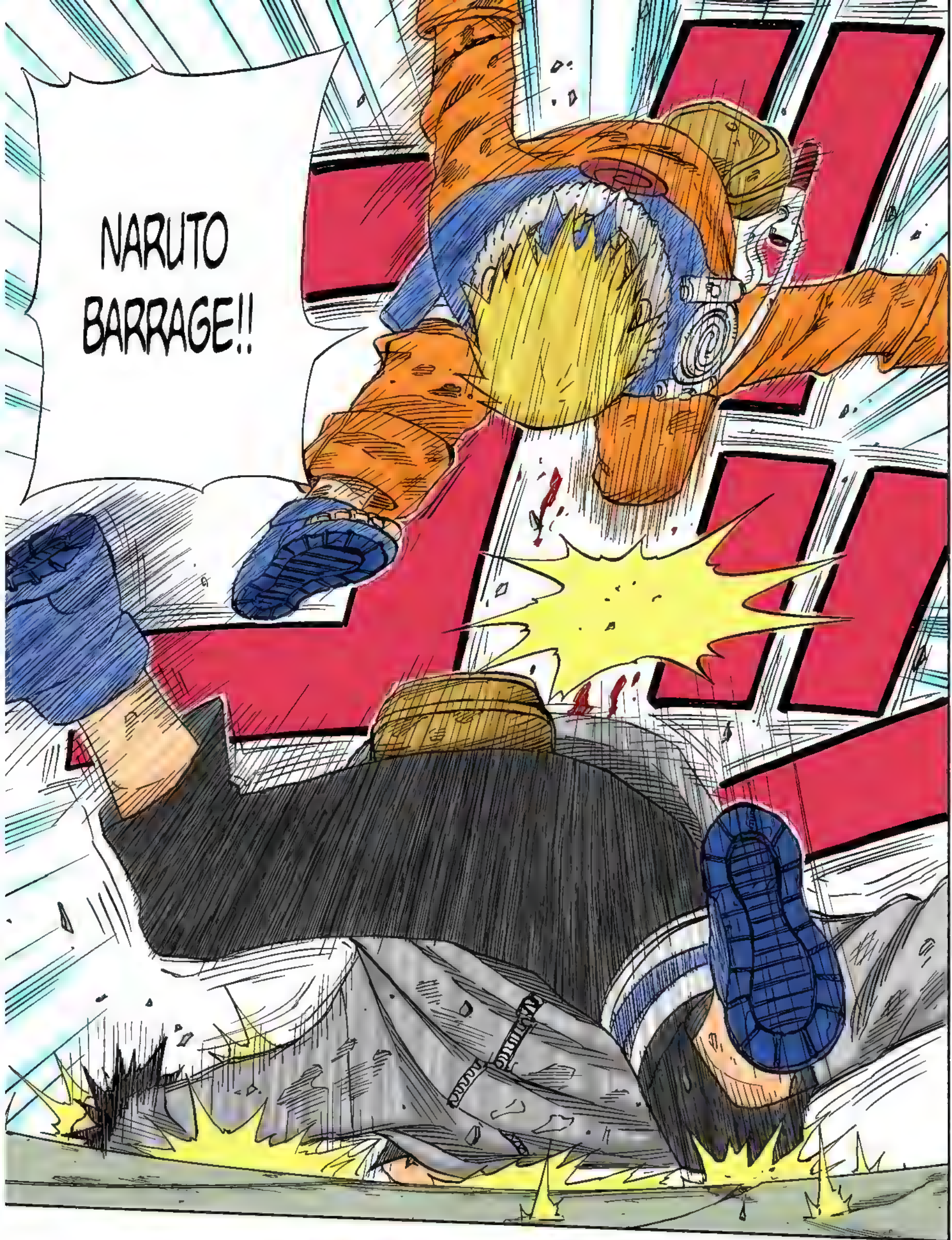
KAGE
BUNSHIN
NO
JUTSU!
ART
OF THE
SHADOW
DOPPEL-
GANGER!!

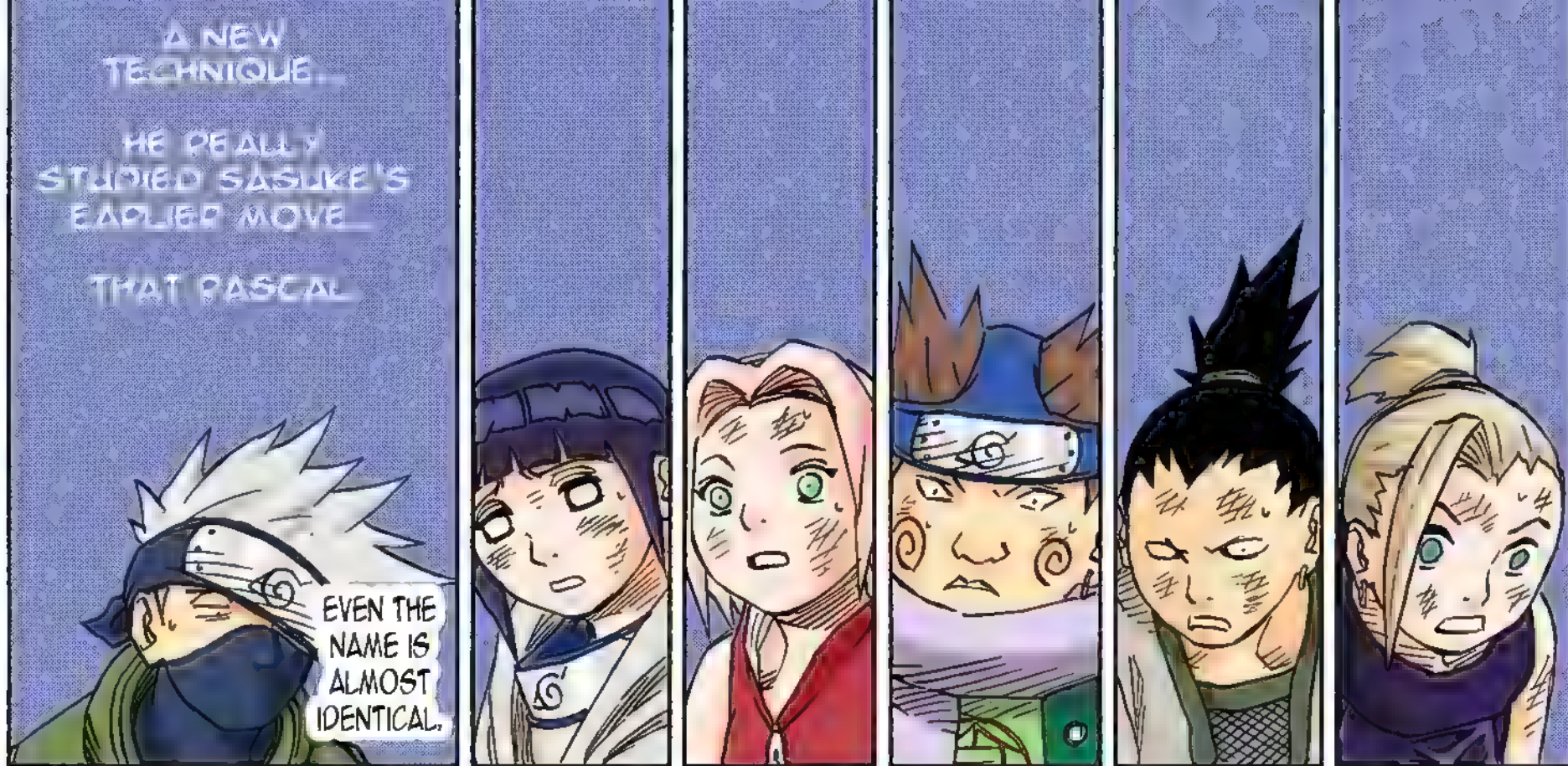


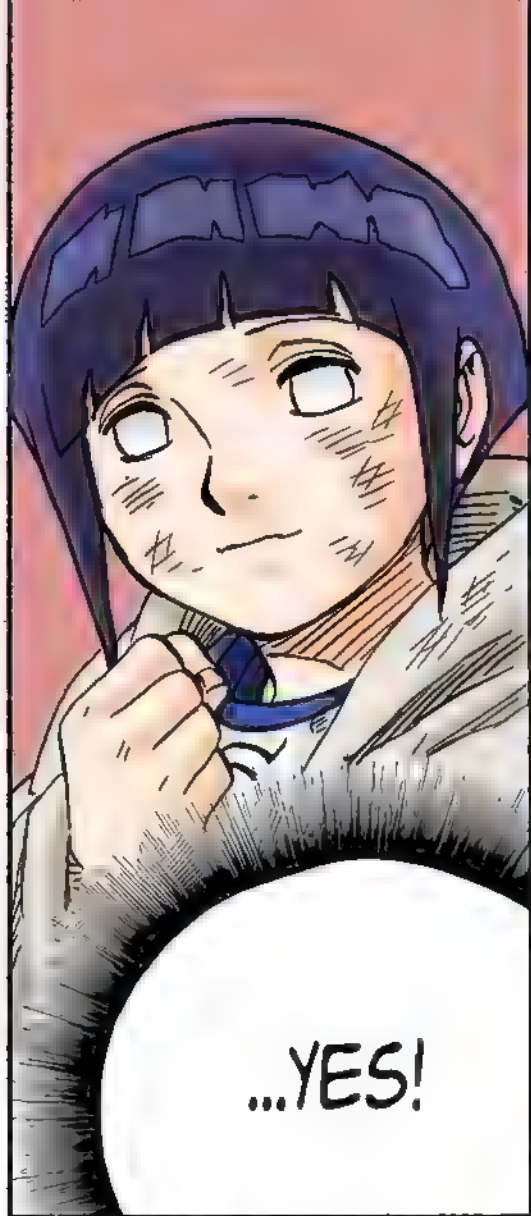
IT'S TIME
TO REPAY ALL
THE ABUSE
I'VE TAKEN
UP 'TIL
NOW!!!



NARUTO
BARRAGE!!



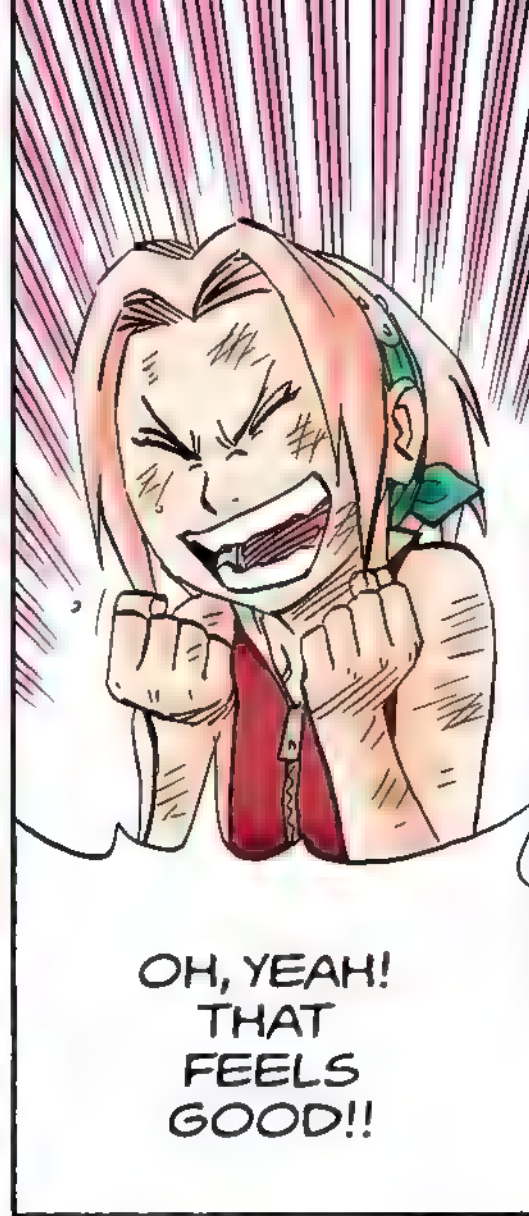




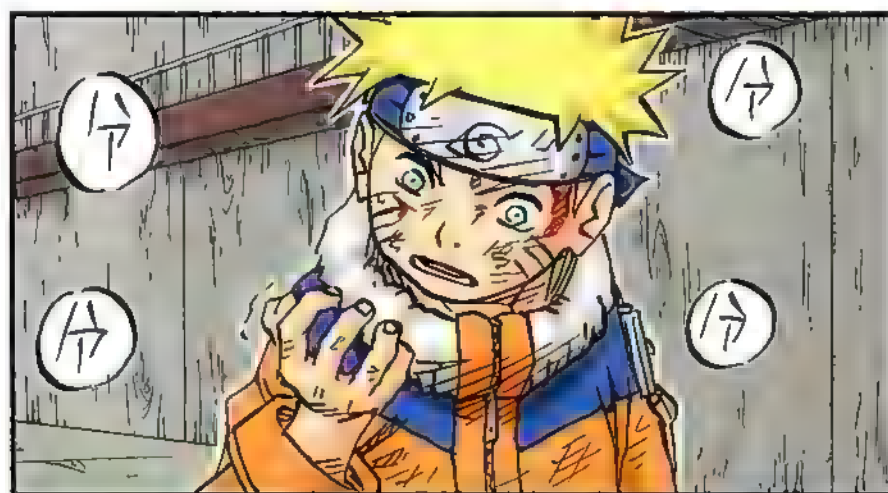
...YES!



INCREDIBLE!
NARUTO
BEAT KIBA!

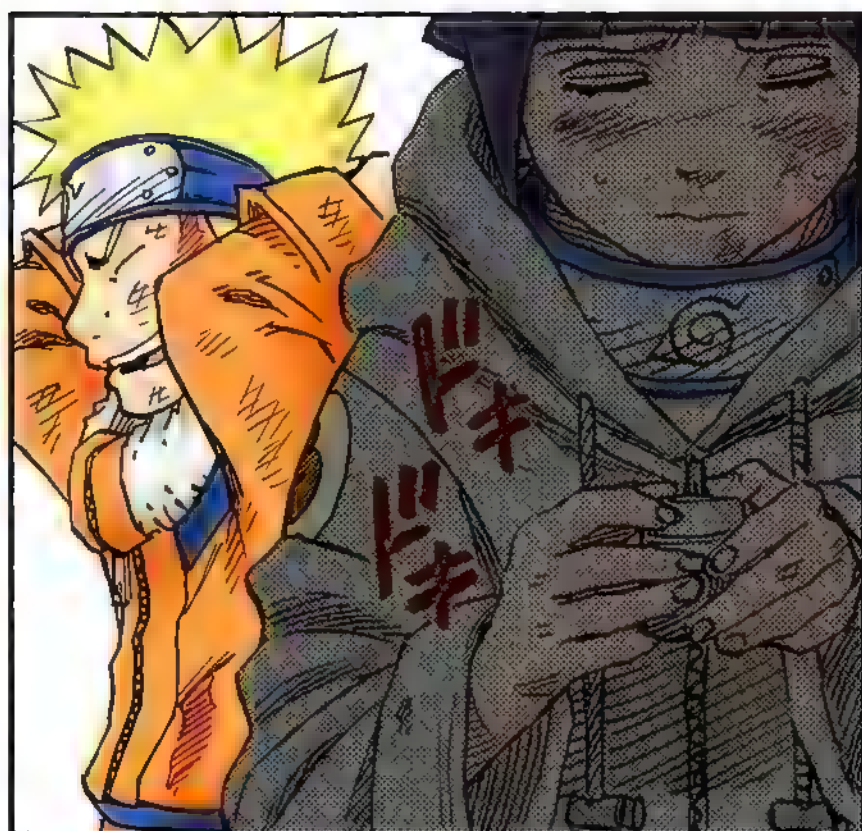


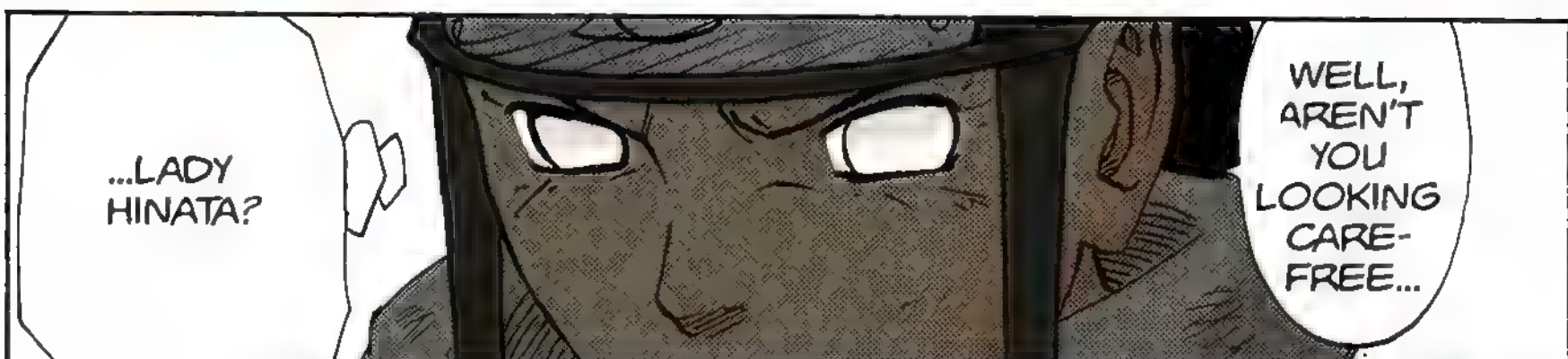
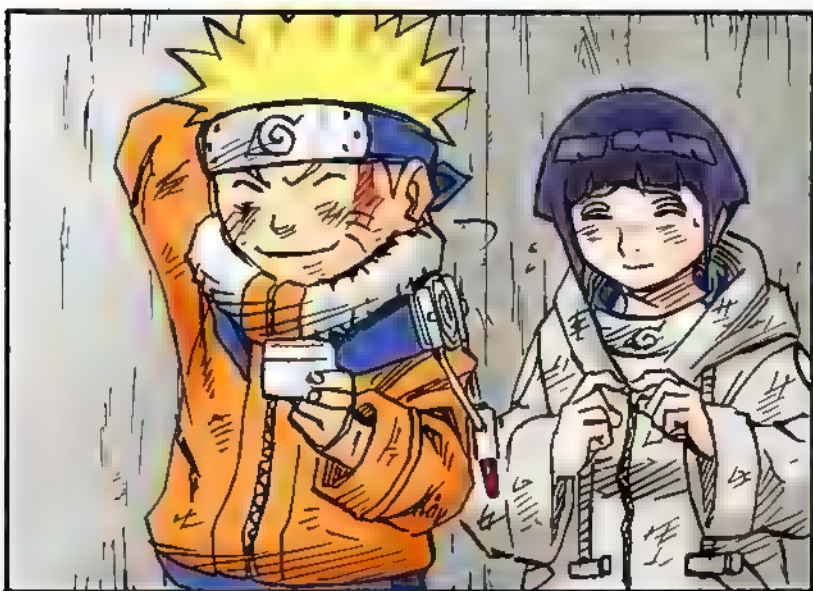
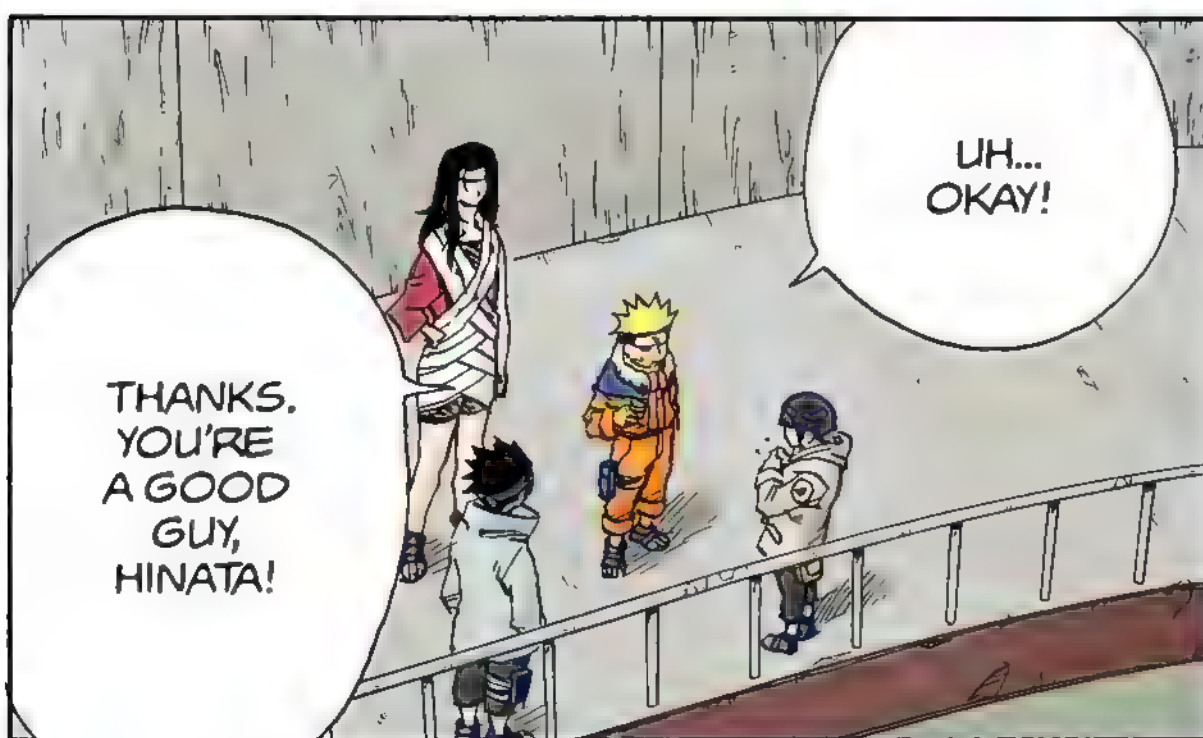
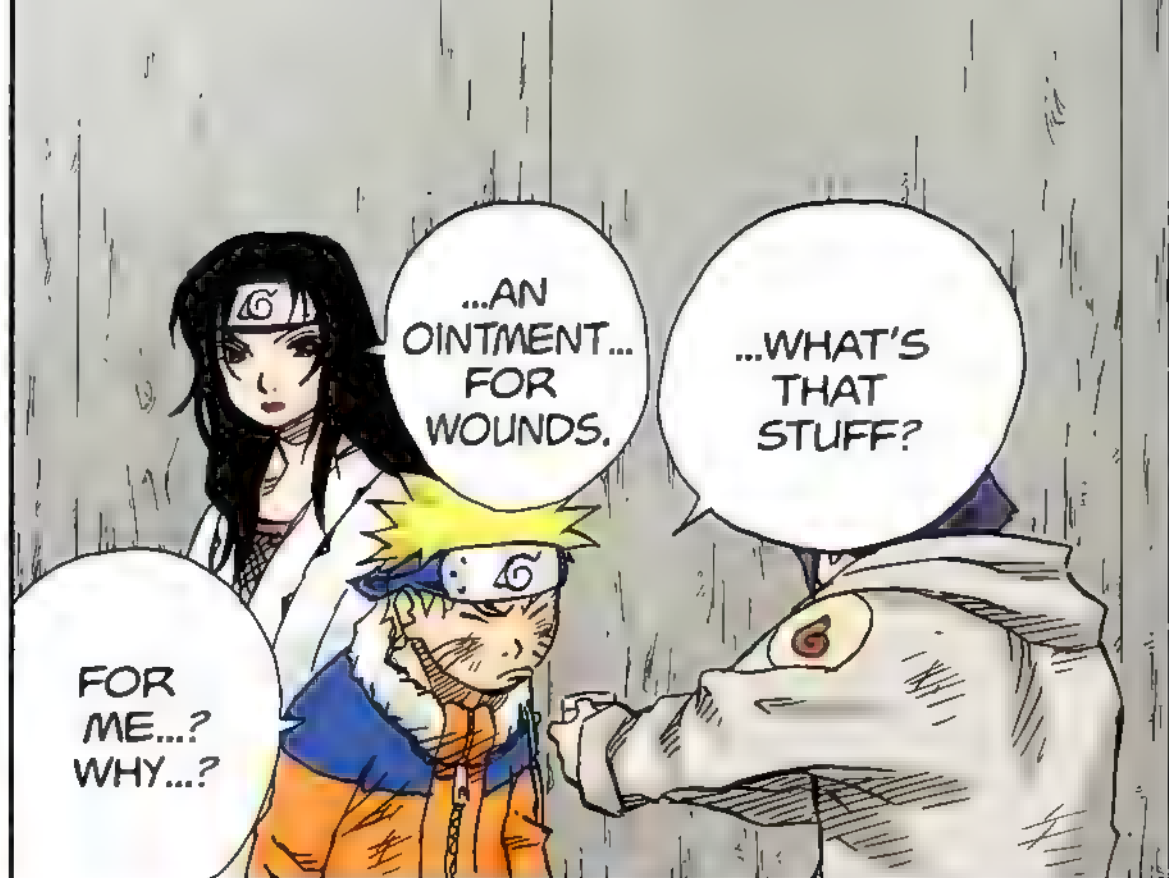
OH, YEAH!
THAT
FEELS
GOOD!!



I'VE
GOTTEN
STRONGER
....!

I
HAVE
...
I
HAVE!





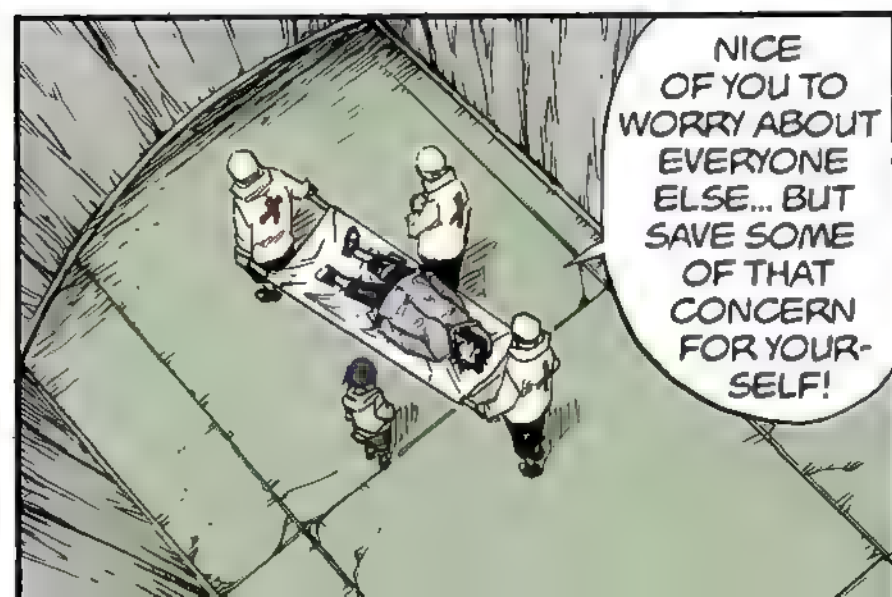
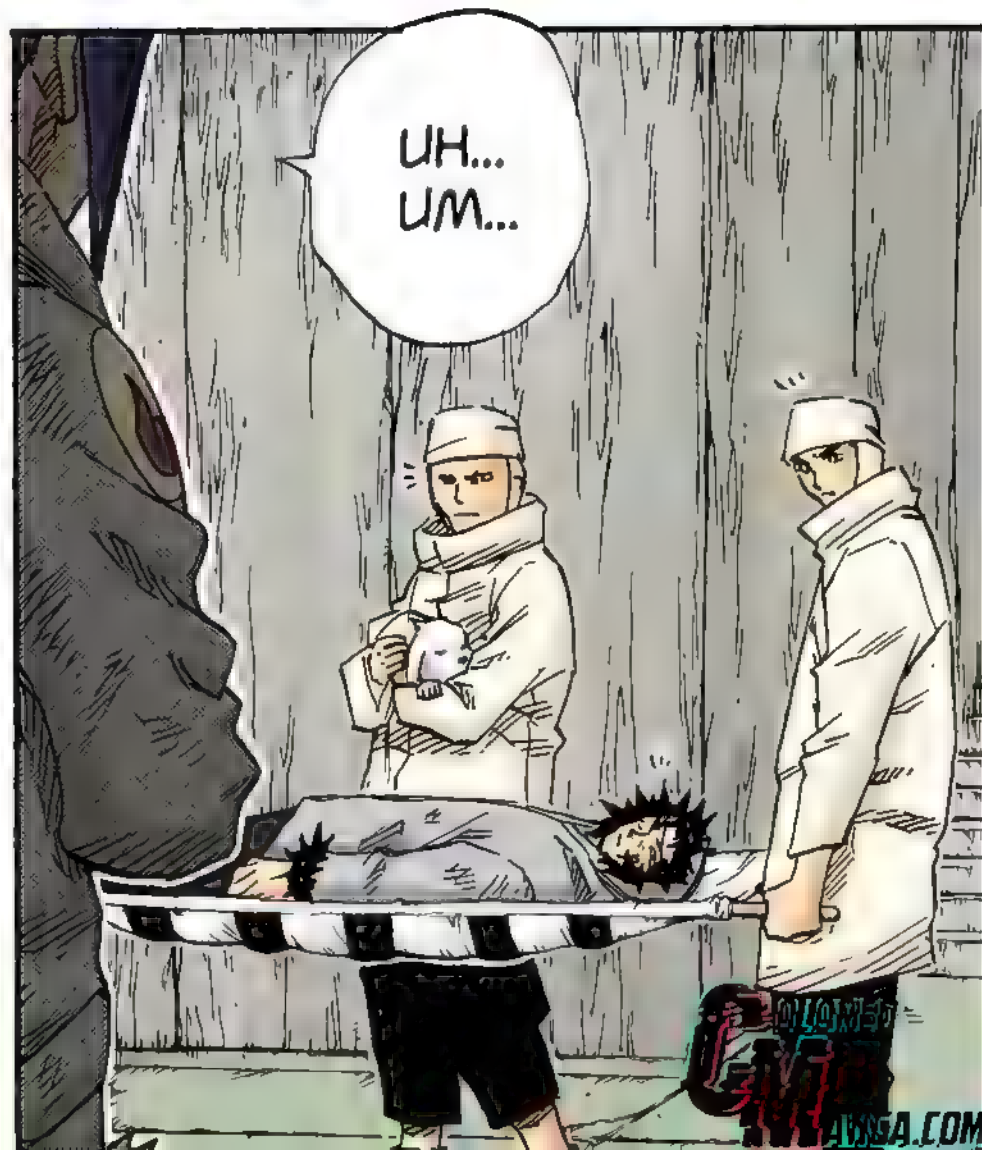
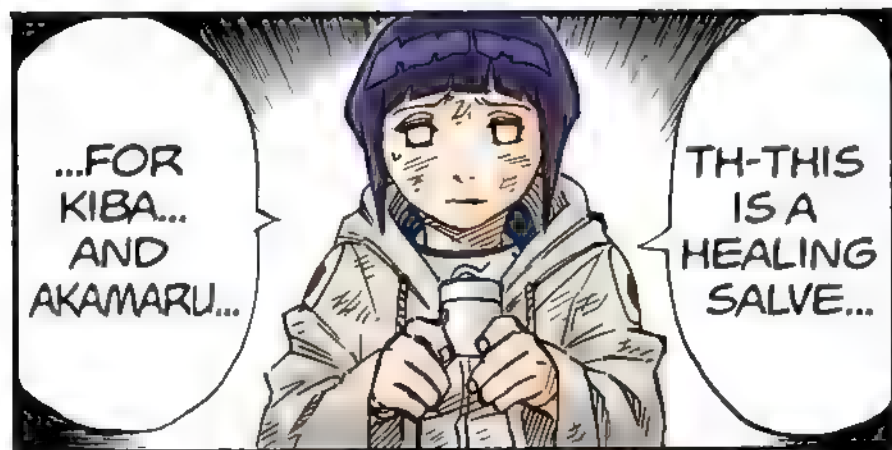
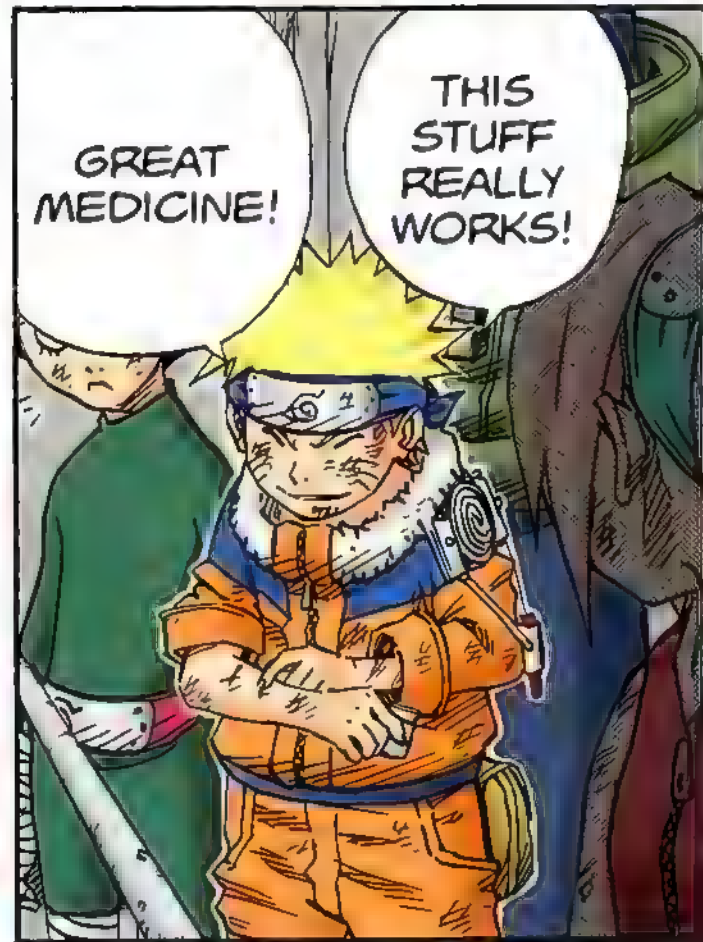
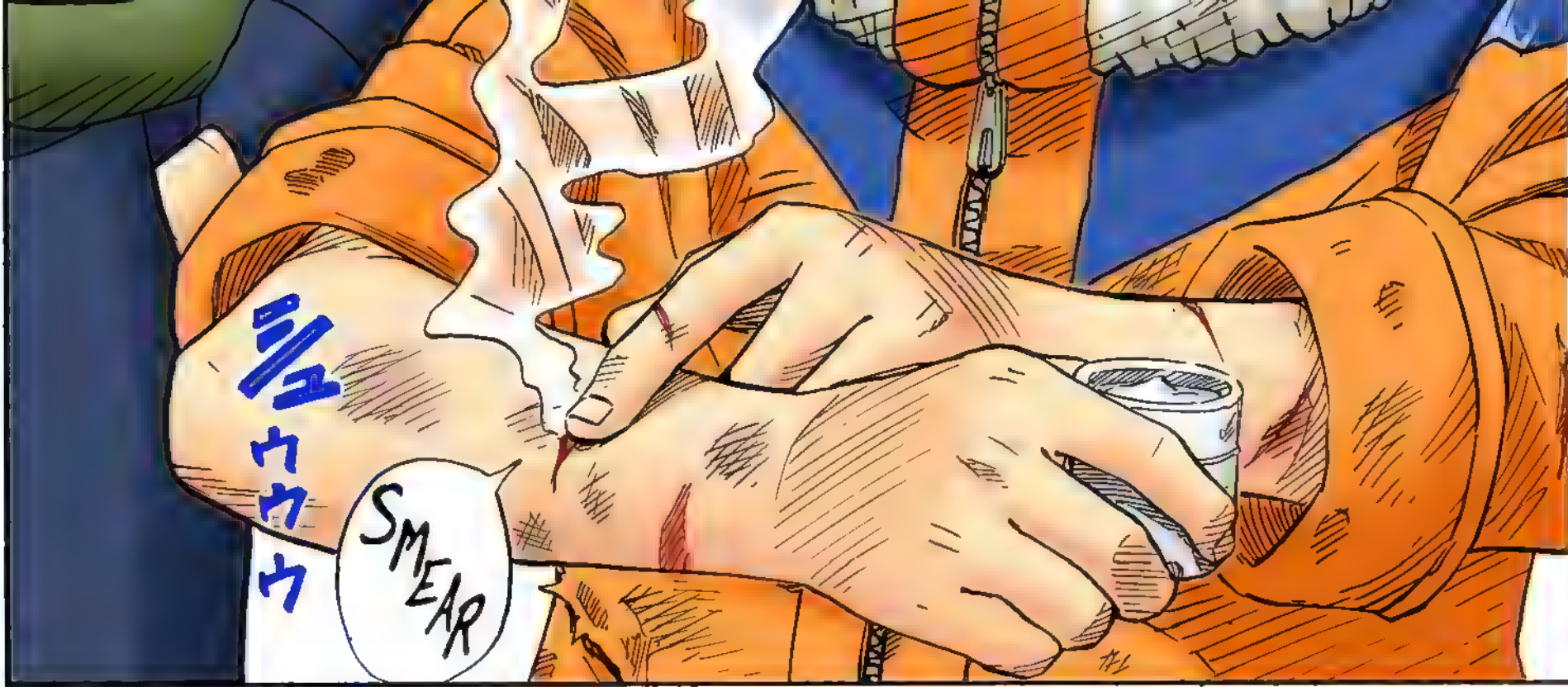
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78 :

NEJ- I VS HINATA







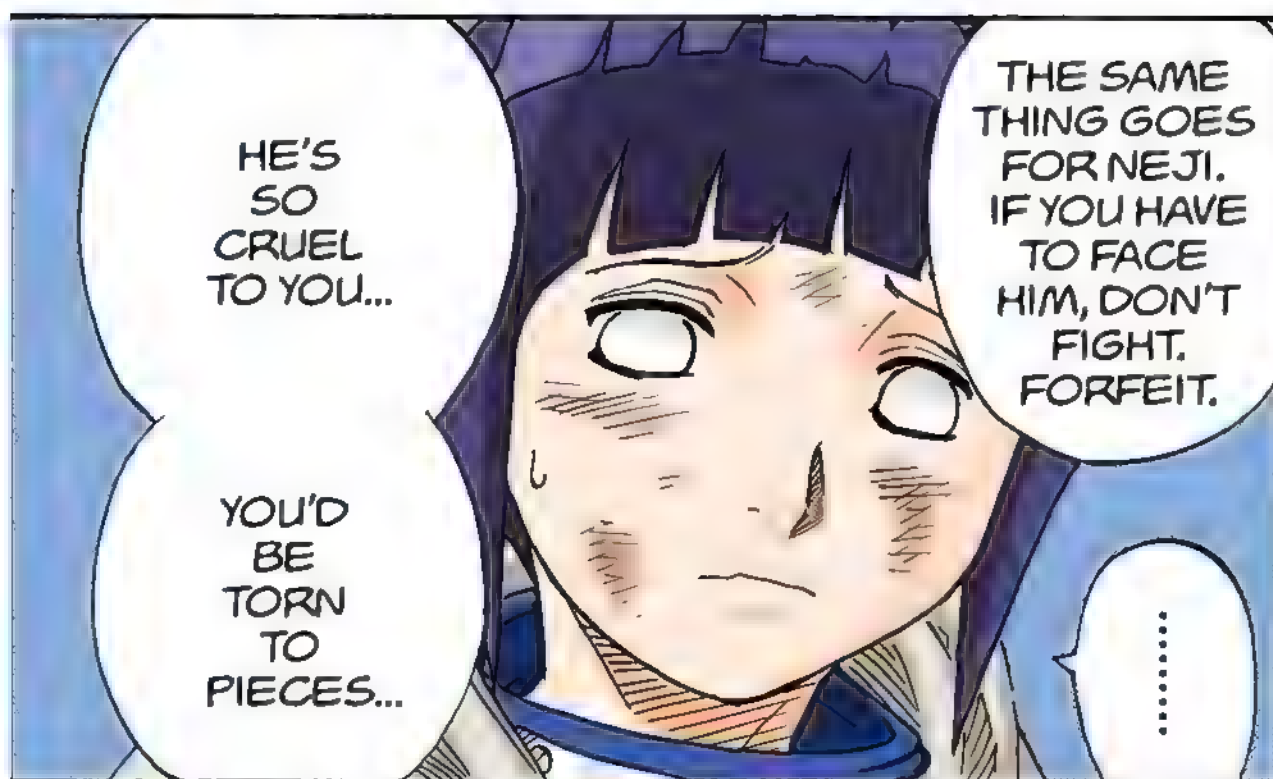
...IF THEY
PAIR YOU
OFF AGAINST
THAT SAND
NINJA...
WITHDRAW
IMMEDIATELY!



THERE ARE
ONLY SIX OF
YOU LEFT...
YOU, CHOJI, NEJI,
LEE, ONE OF THE
SOUND NINJA...
AND THAT
GUY FROM
SAND.

LISTEN,
HINATA...

.....
?



HE'S
SO
CRUEL
TO YOU...

YOU'D
BE
TORN
TO
PIECES...

THE SAME
THING GOES
FOR NEJI.
IF YOU HAVE
TO FACE
HIM, DON'T
FIGHT.
FORFEIT.

.....

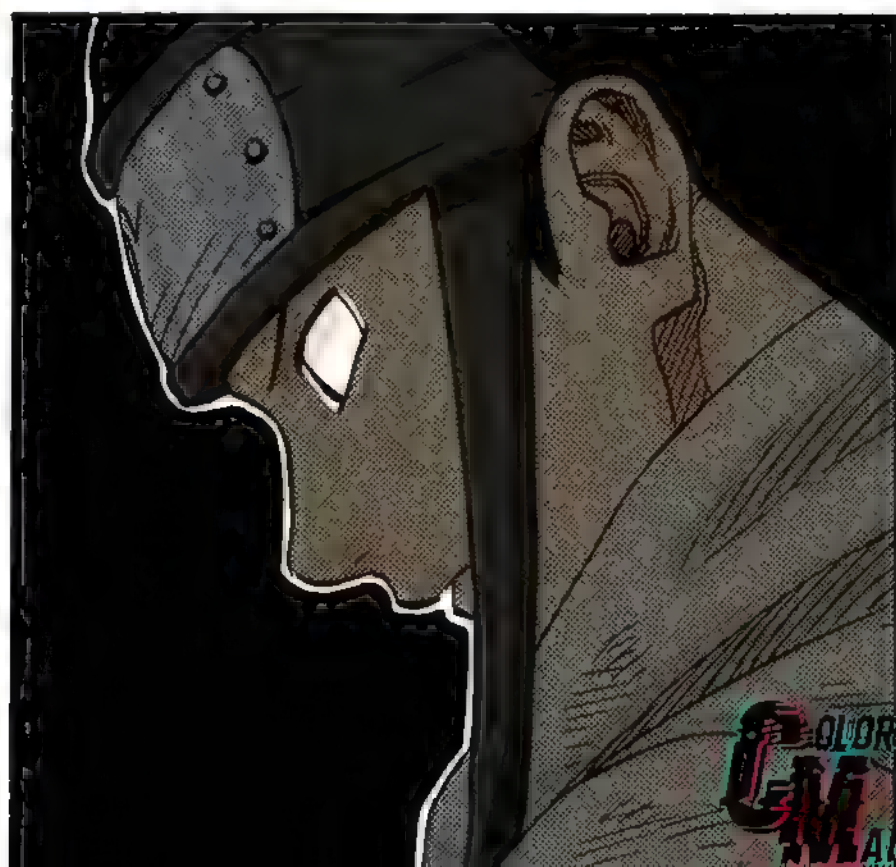


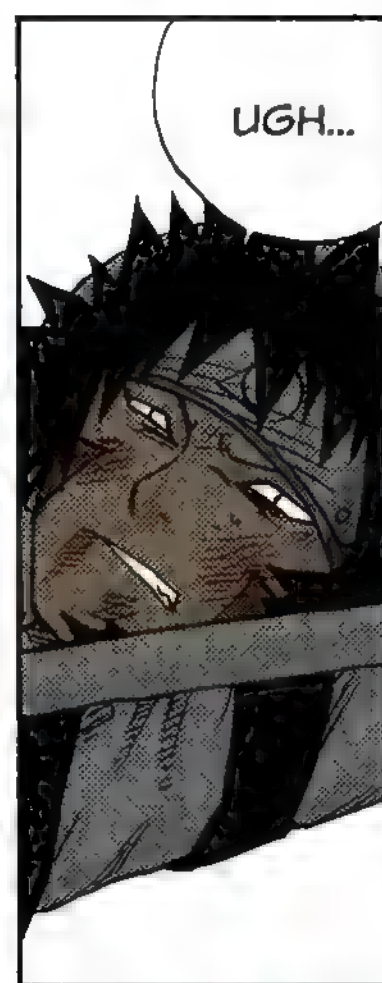
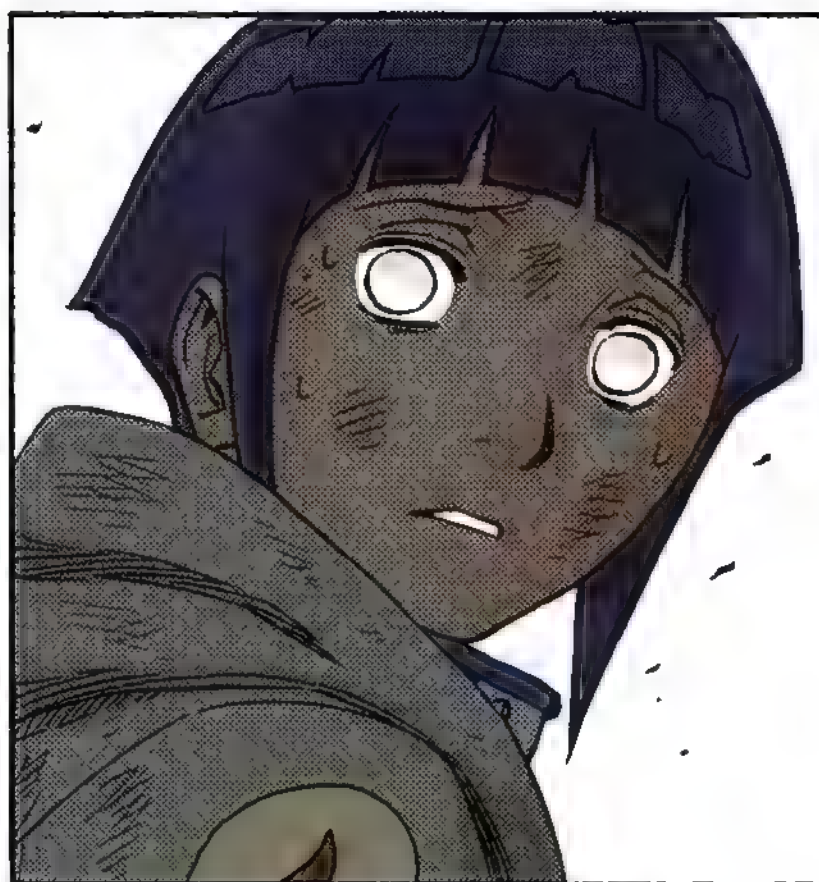
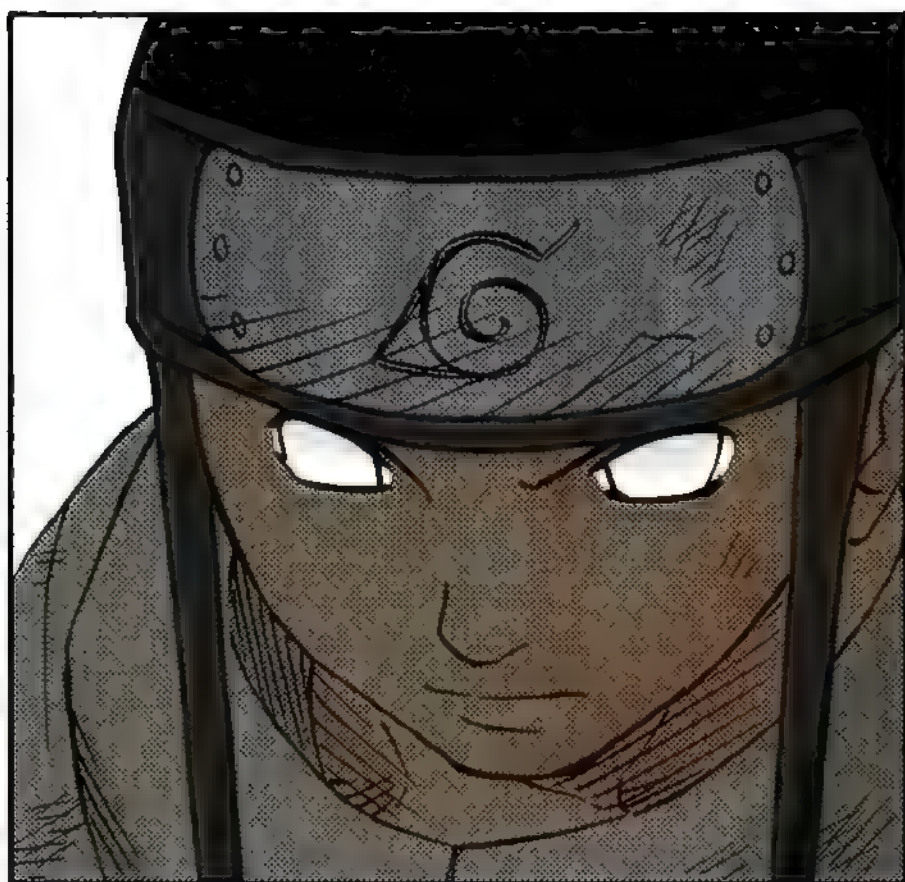
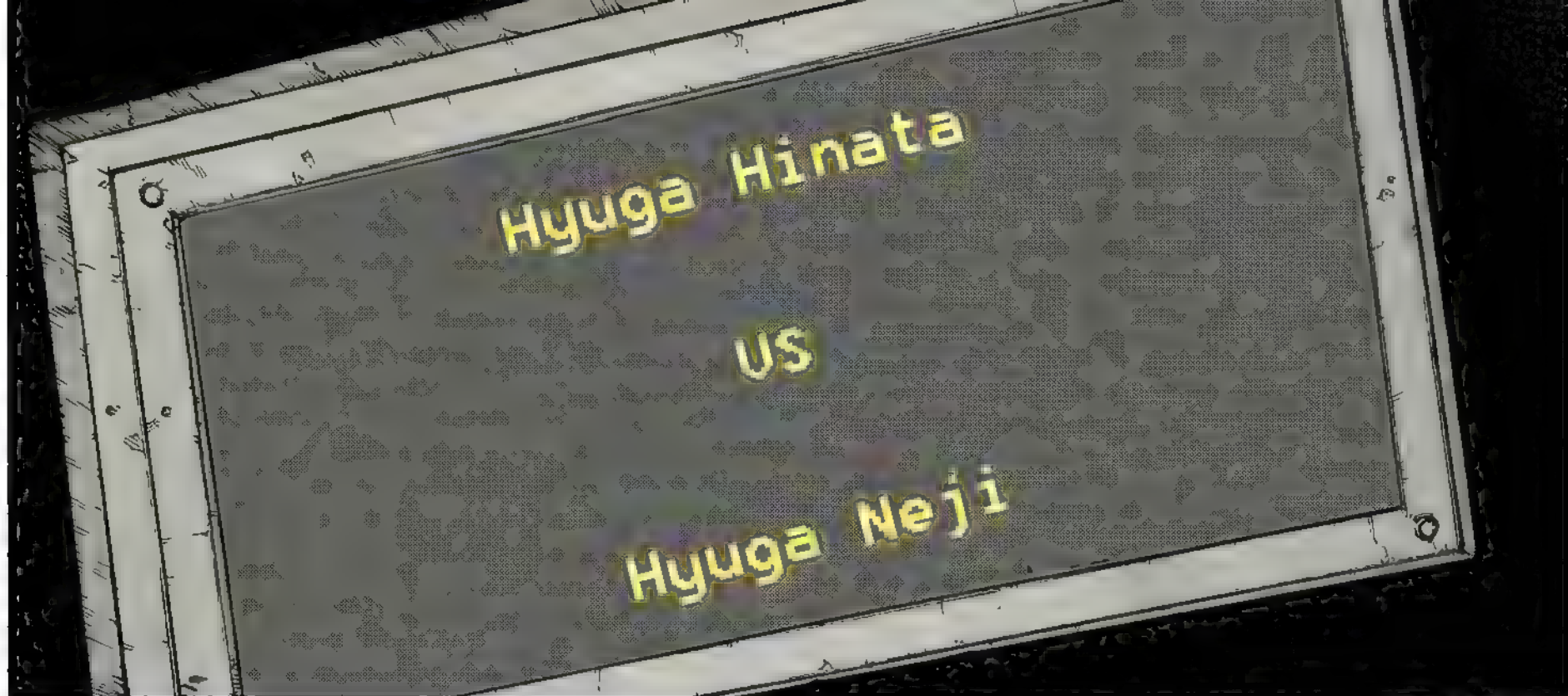
AND
NOT
JUST
HIM!

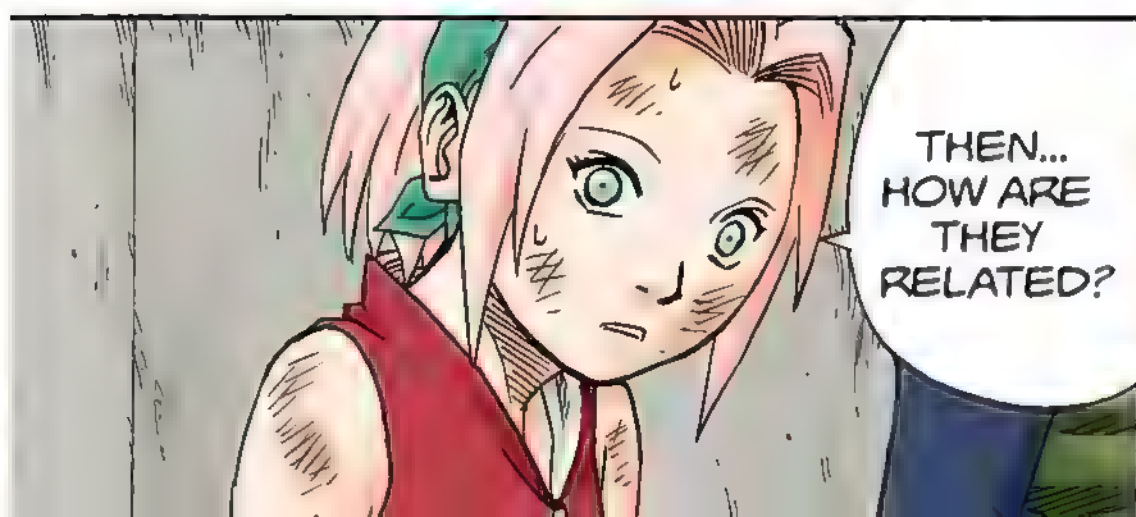
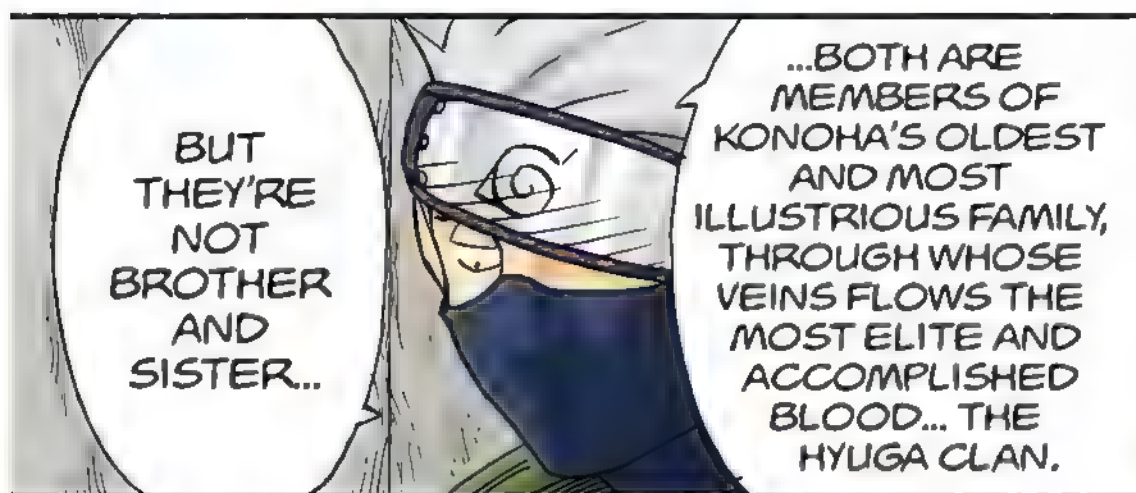
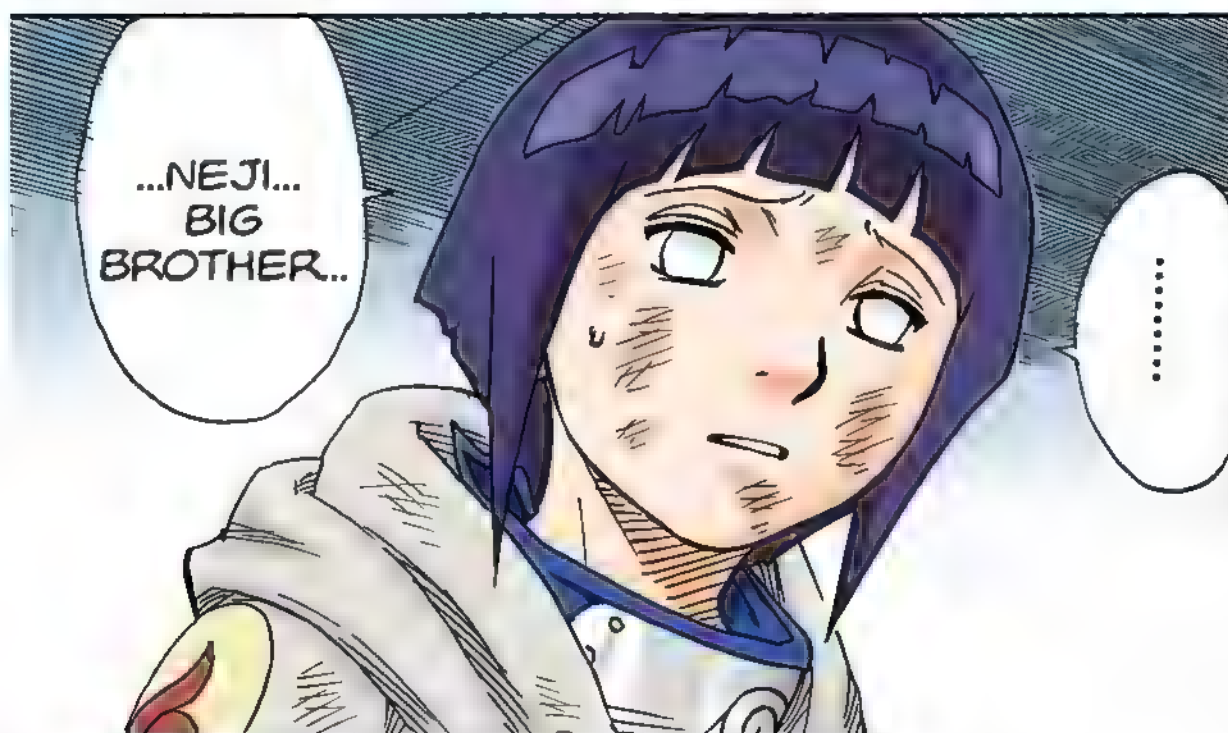


WELL THEN...
THE NEXT
MATCH WILL
BE...

KOFF

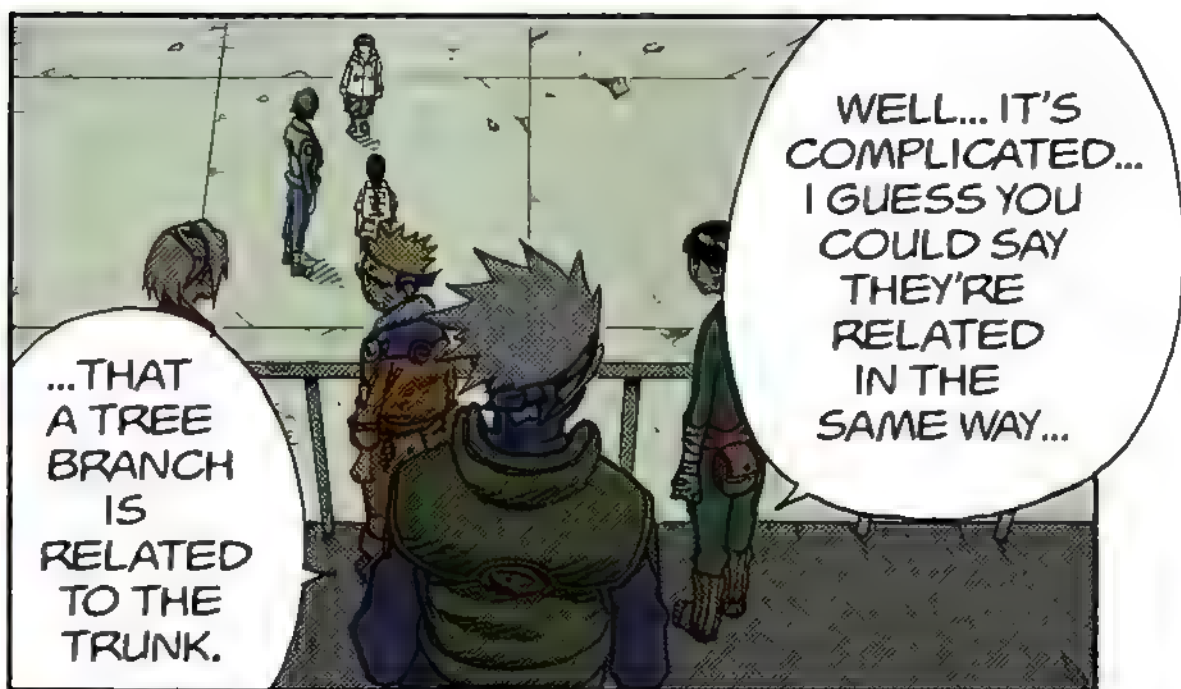






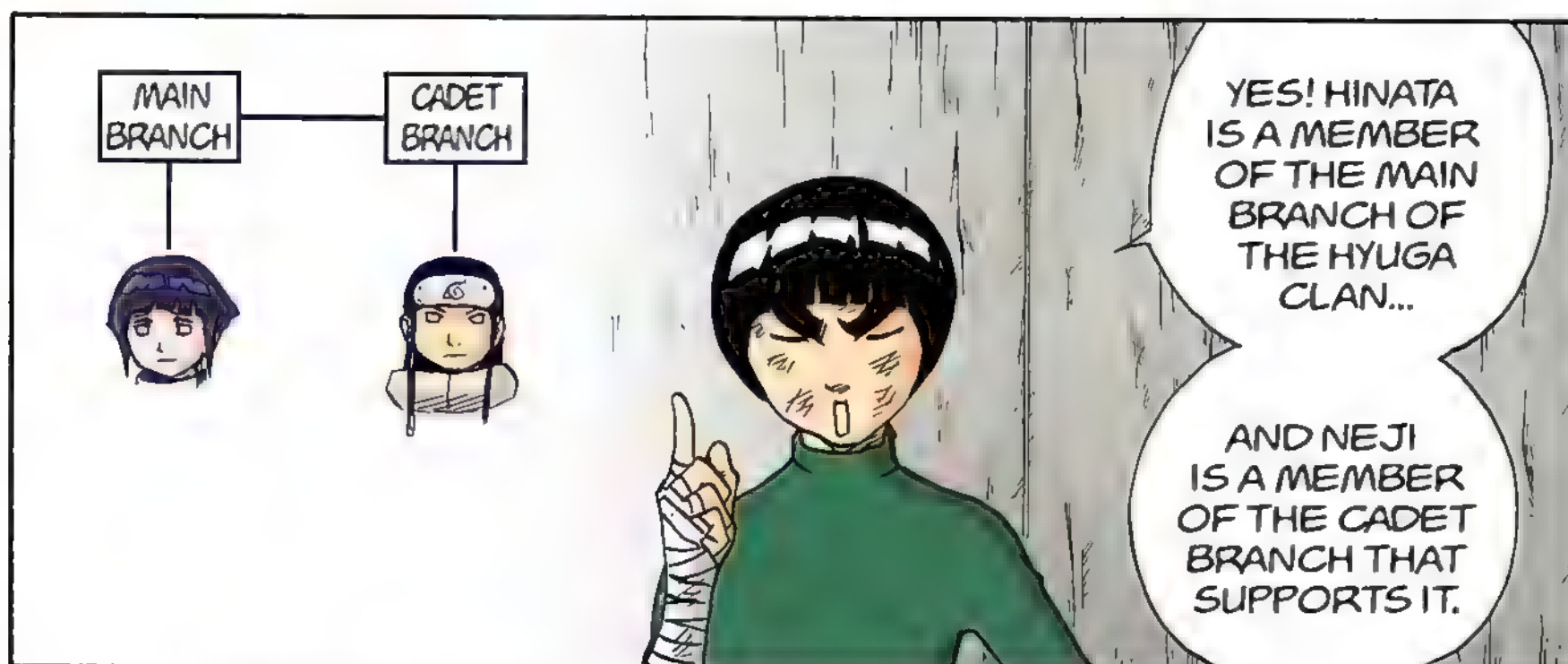


BRANCH
AND
TRUNK...?



...THAT
A TREE
BRANCH
IS
RELATED
TO THE
TRUNK.

WELL... IT'S
COMPLICATED...
I GUESS YOU
COULD SAY
THEY'RE
RELATED
IN THE
SAME WAY...



YES! HINATA
IS A MEMBER
OF THE MAIN
BRANCH OF
THE HYUGA
CLAN...

AND NEJI
IS A MEMBER
OF THE CADET
BRANCH THAT
SUPPORTS IT.



RELATIONS
AREN'T
EXACTLY
FRIENDLY.

THERE'S
BEEN STRAIN
BETWEEN
THE CENTRAL
AND CADET
BRANCHES
OF CLAN
HYUGA FOR
SOME
TIME...

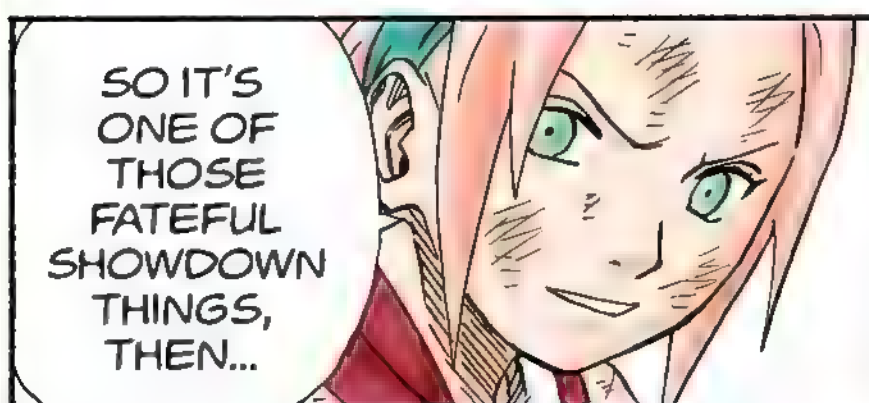
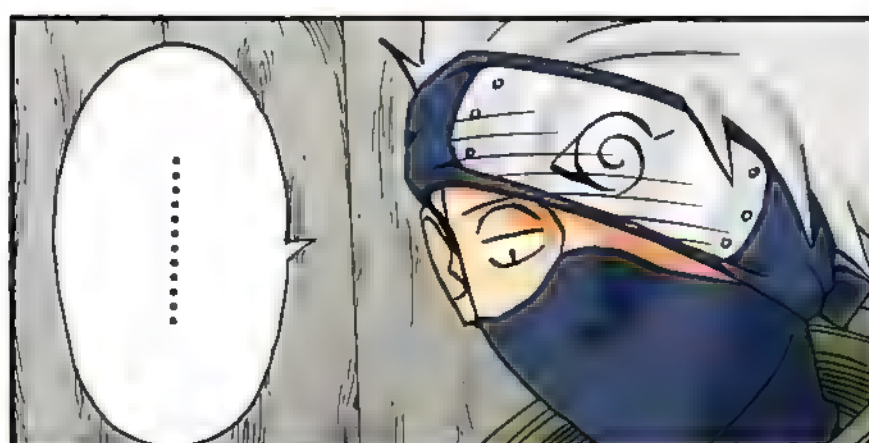
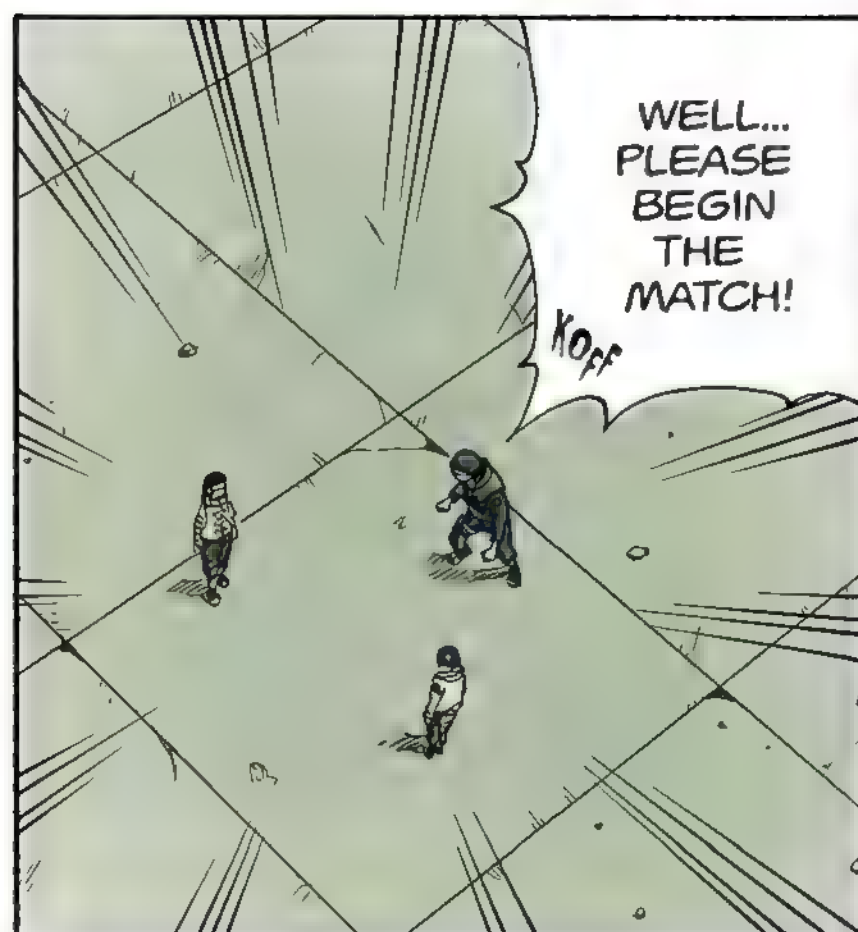


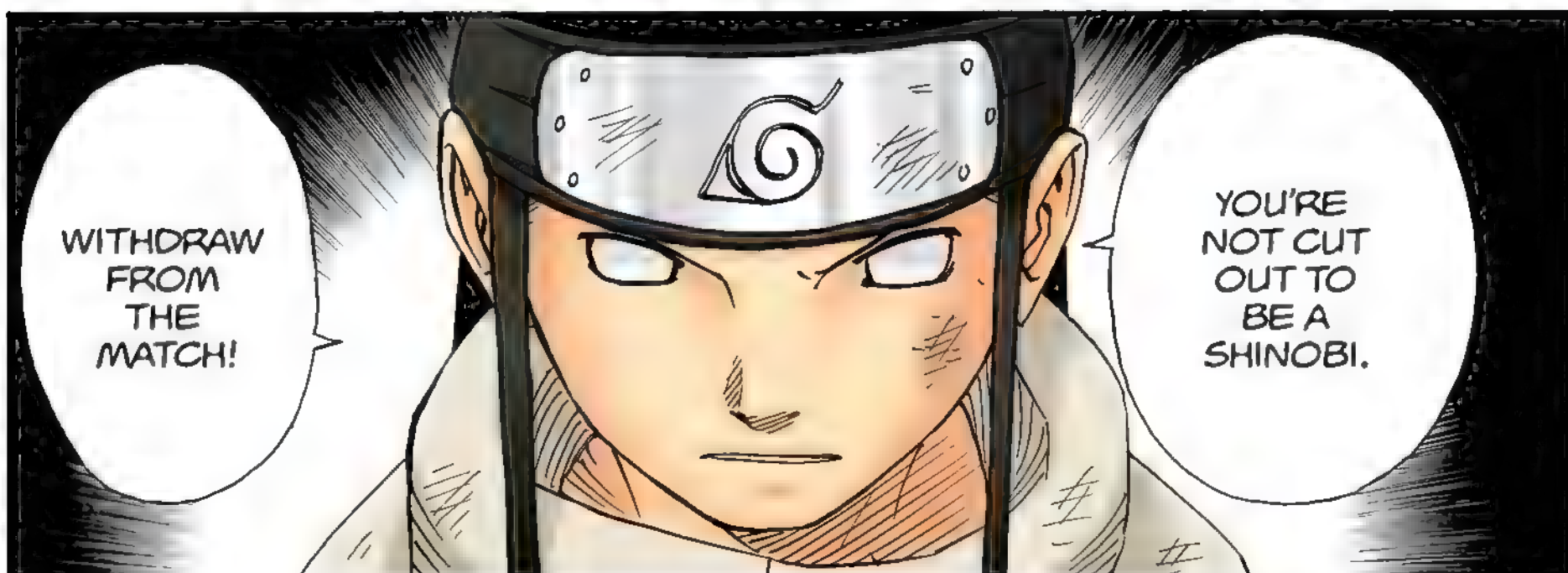
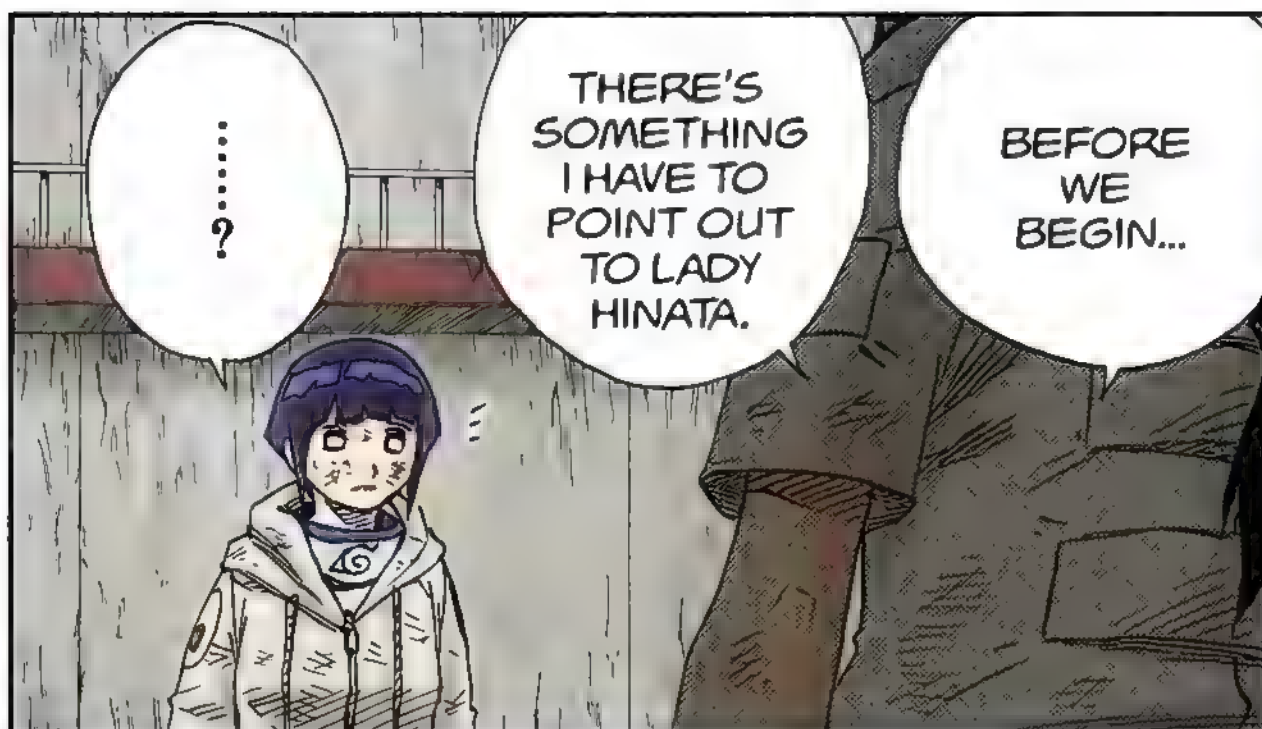
YES...
EXCEPT...

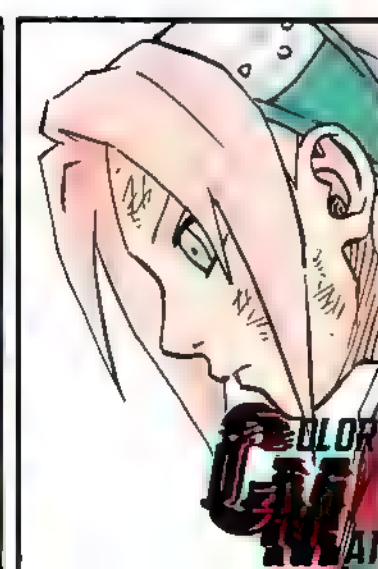
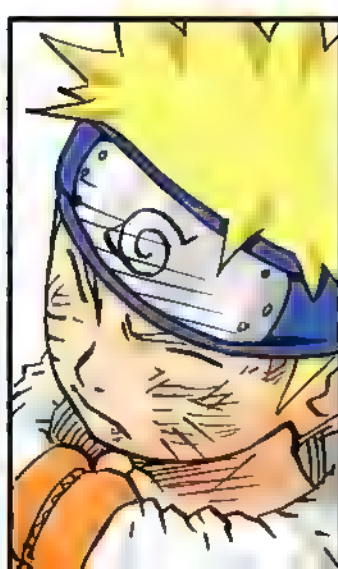
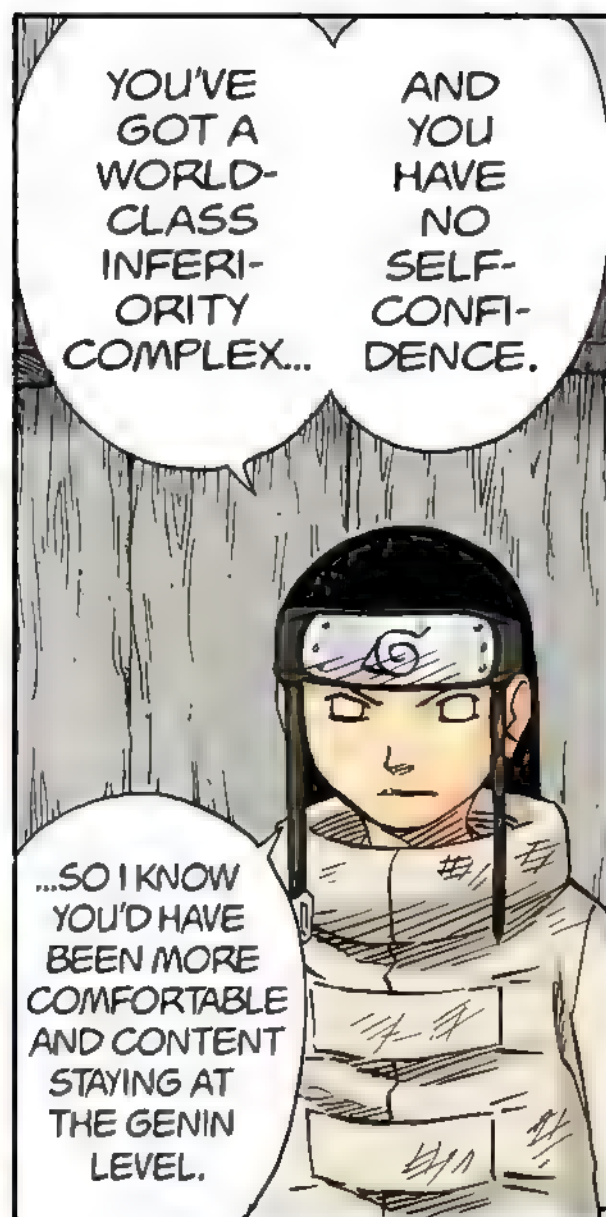
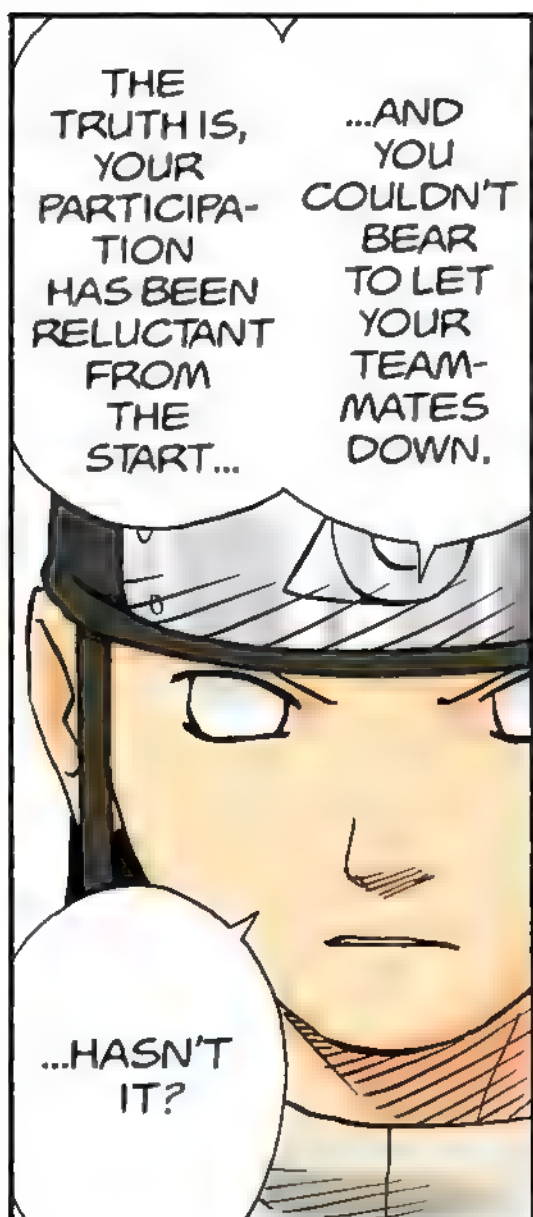
THAT'LL
BE HARD
ON
BOTH
OF
THEM.

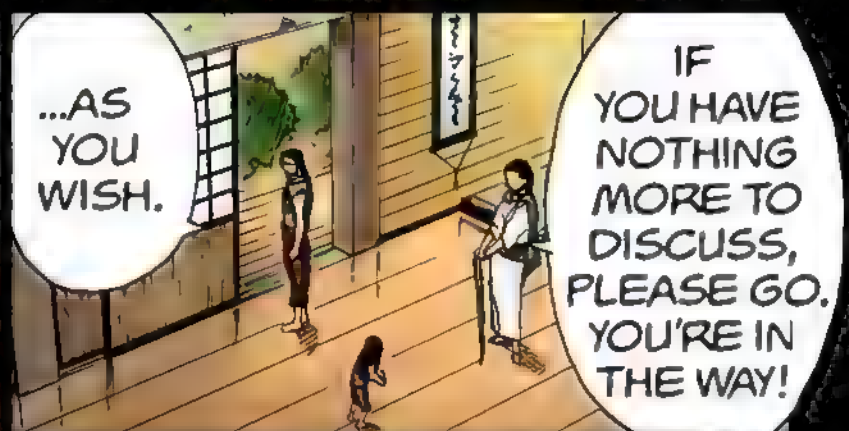
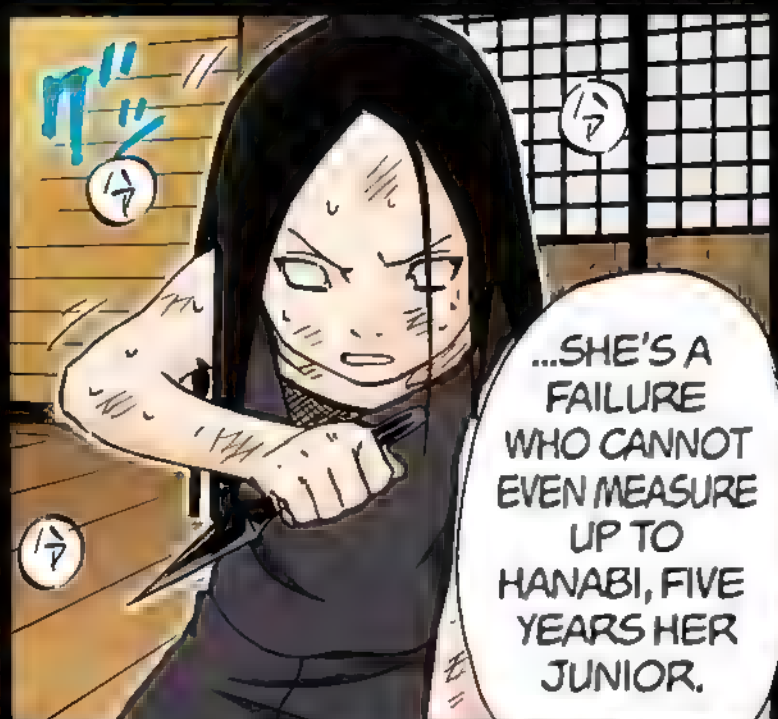
...SO
IT'S
FAMILY
FIGHT-
ING
FAMILY?

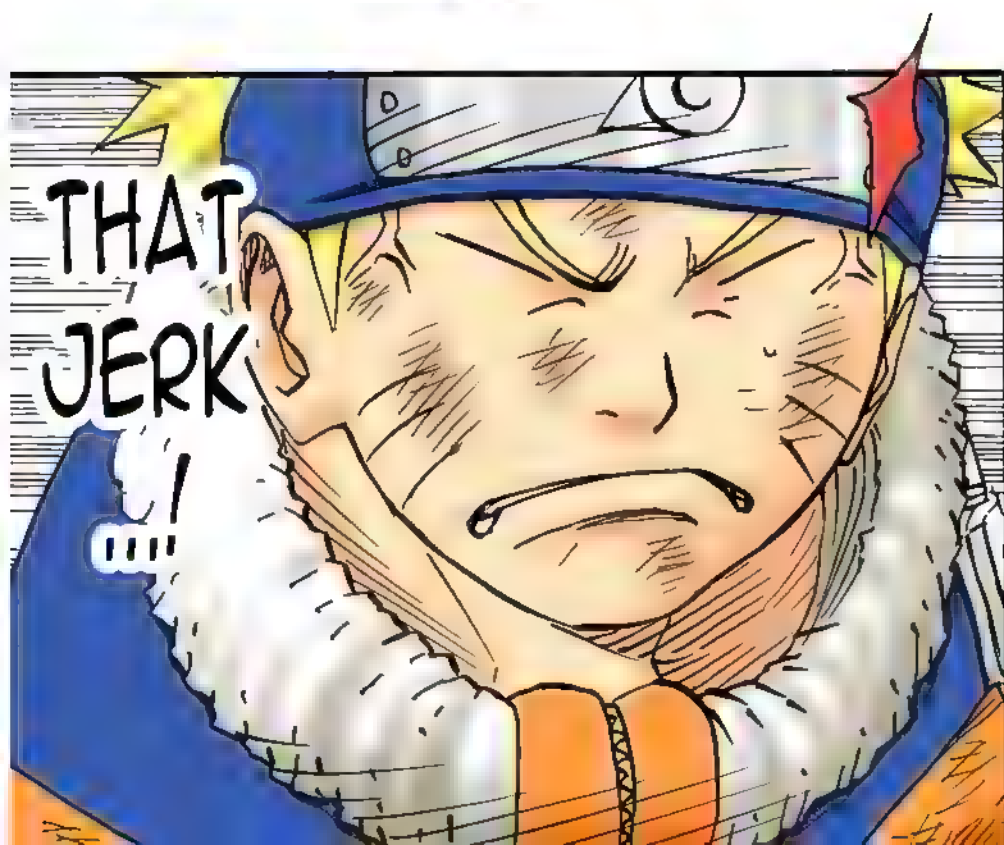
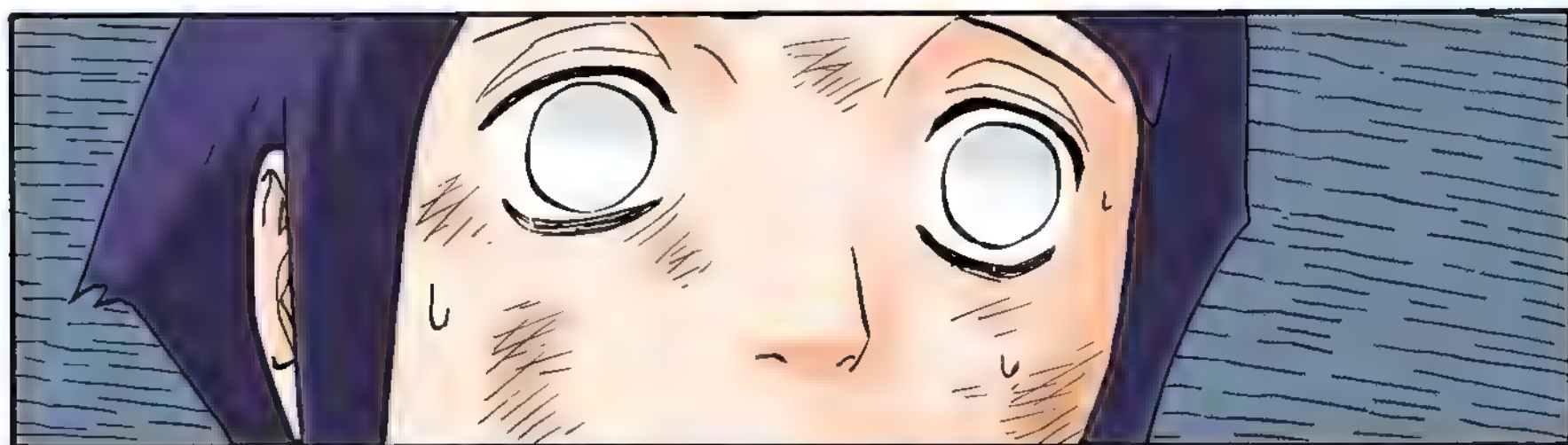
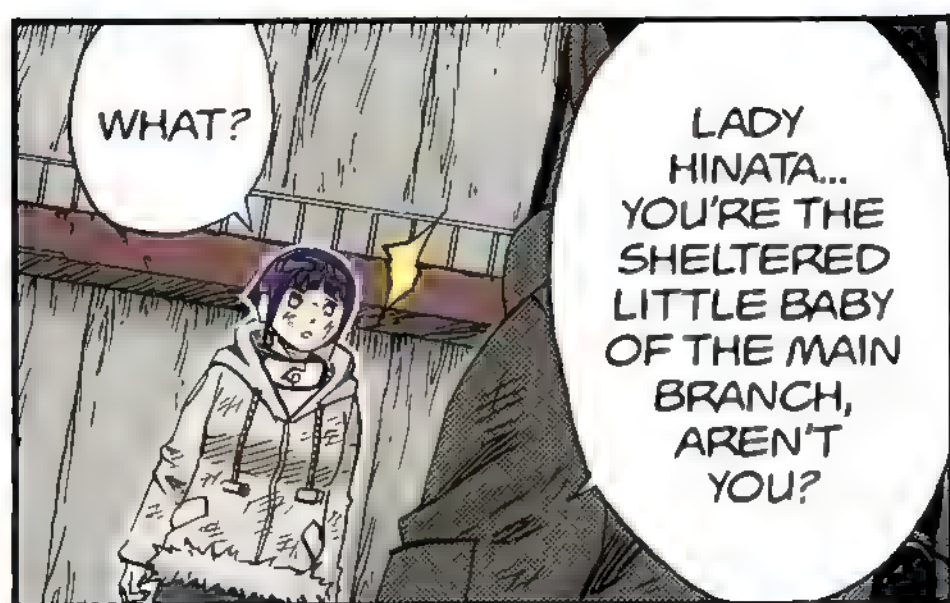
WHAT...?

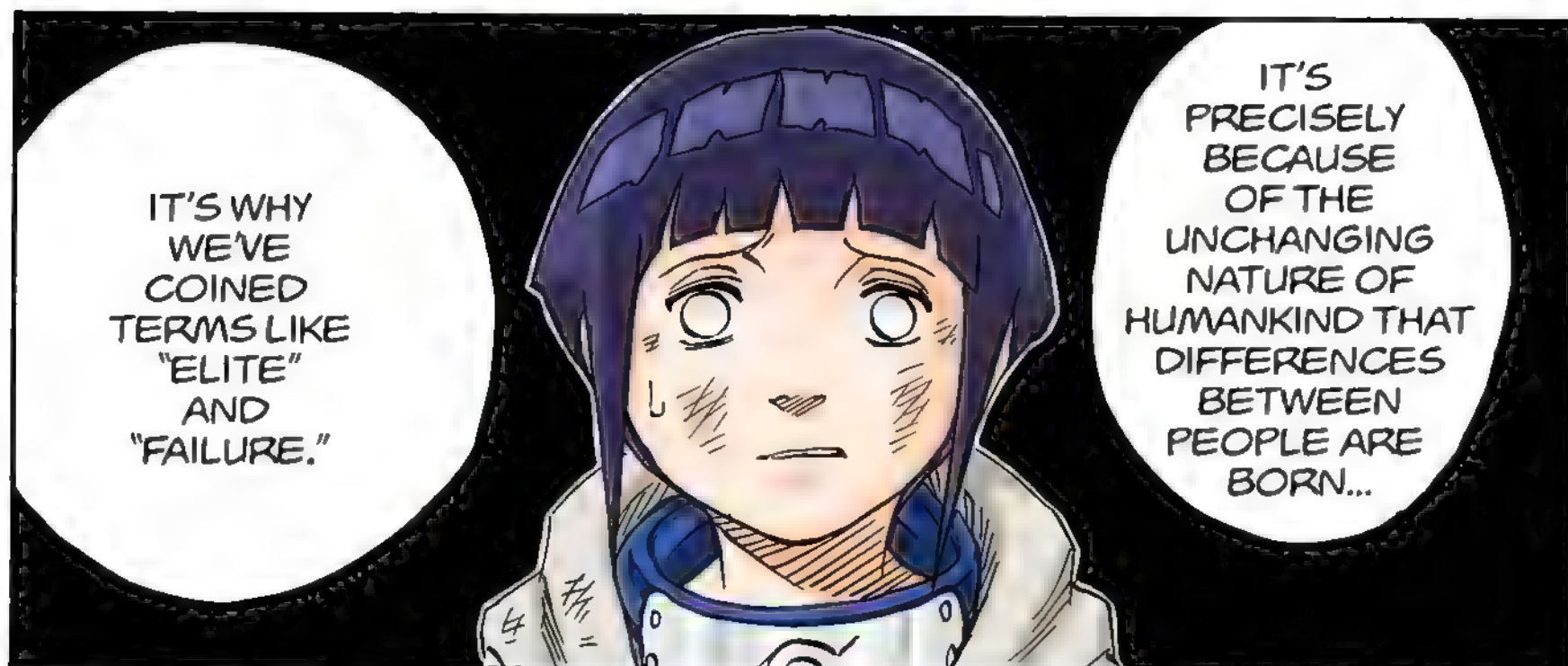












IT'S WHY
WE'VE
COINED
TERMS LIKE
"ELITE"
AND
"FAILURE."

IT'S
PRECISELY
BECAUSE
OF THE
UNCHANGING
NATURE OF
HUMANKIND THAT
DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN
PEOPLE ARE
BORN...



YES, IT'S
A FORM OF
DISCRIMINATION.
AND THE FACTORS
THAT IT'S BASED ON
DON'T CHANGE.
WE HAVE NO
CHOICE...

IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHO
YOU ARE.
WE'RE ALL JUDGED
ON THE BASIS OF
OUR LOOKS, OUR
INTELLIGENCE, OUR
TALENT, OR OUR
PERSONALITIES...

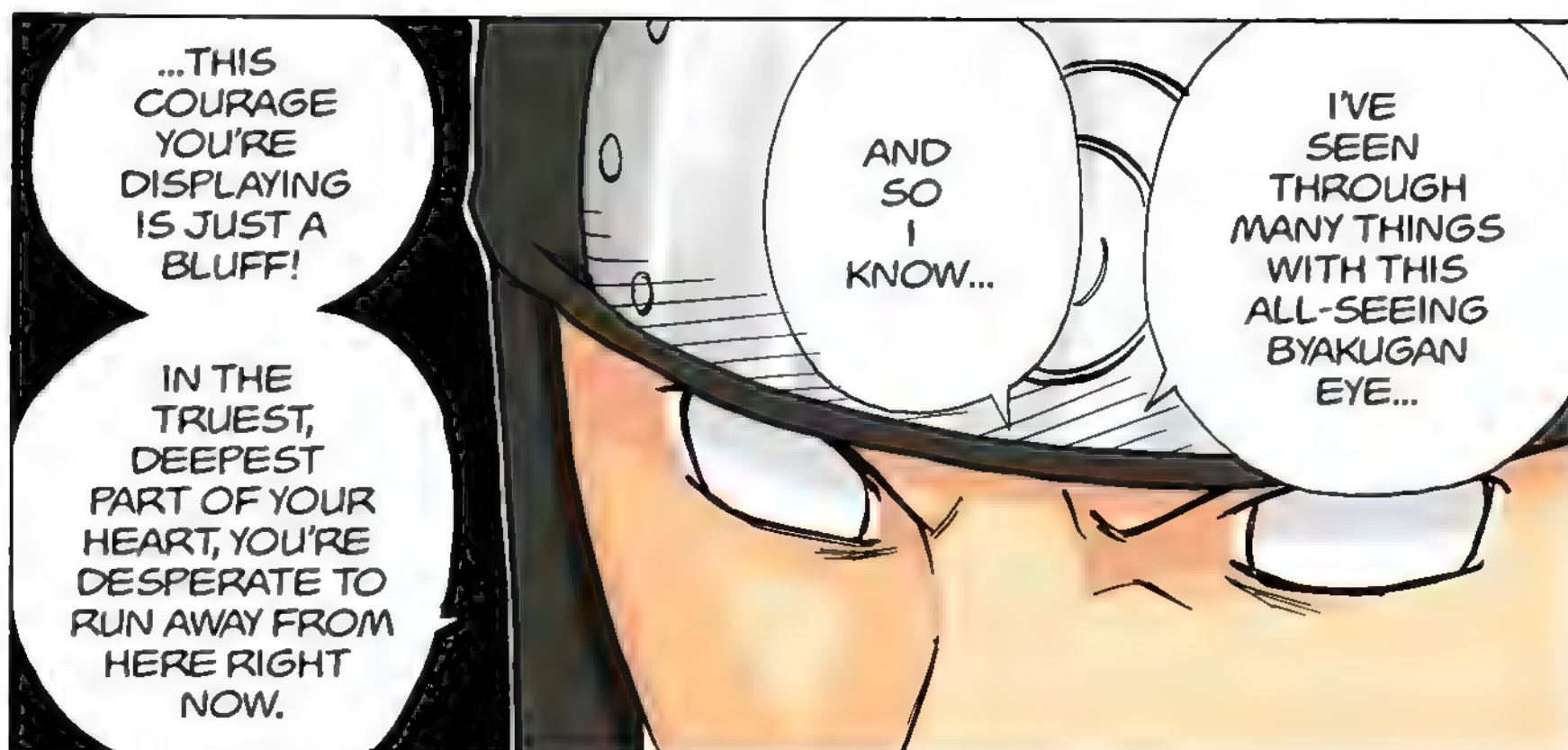
...WE
MUST LIVE
WITHIN THE
BOUNDARIES
SET FOR US
BY THE
JUDGMENTS
OF OTHERS.

...JUST AS
WE JUDGE
OTHERS IN
THEIR TURN.

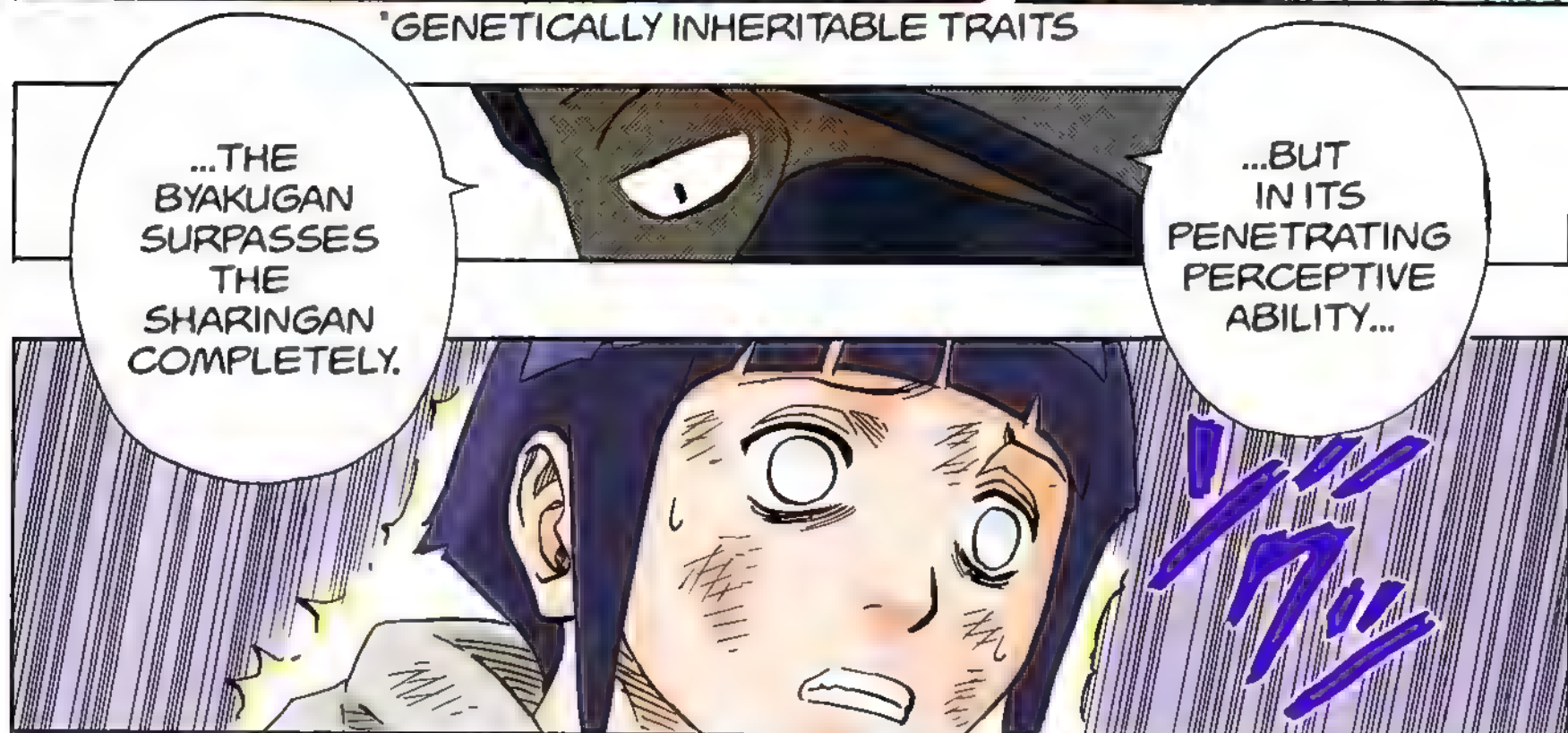


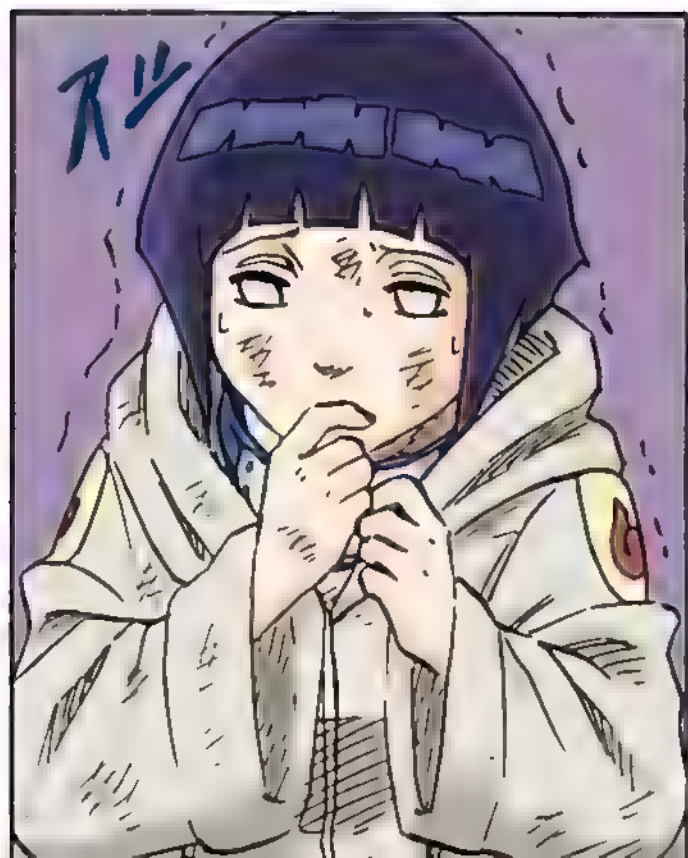
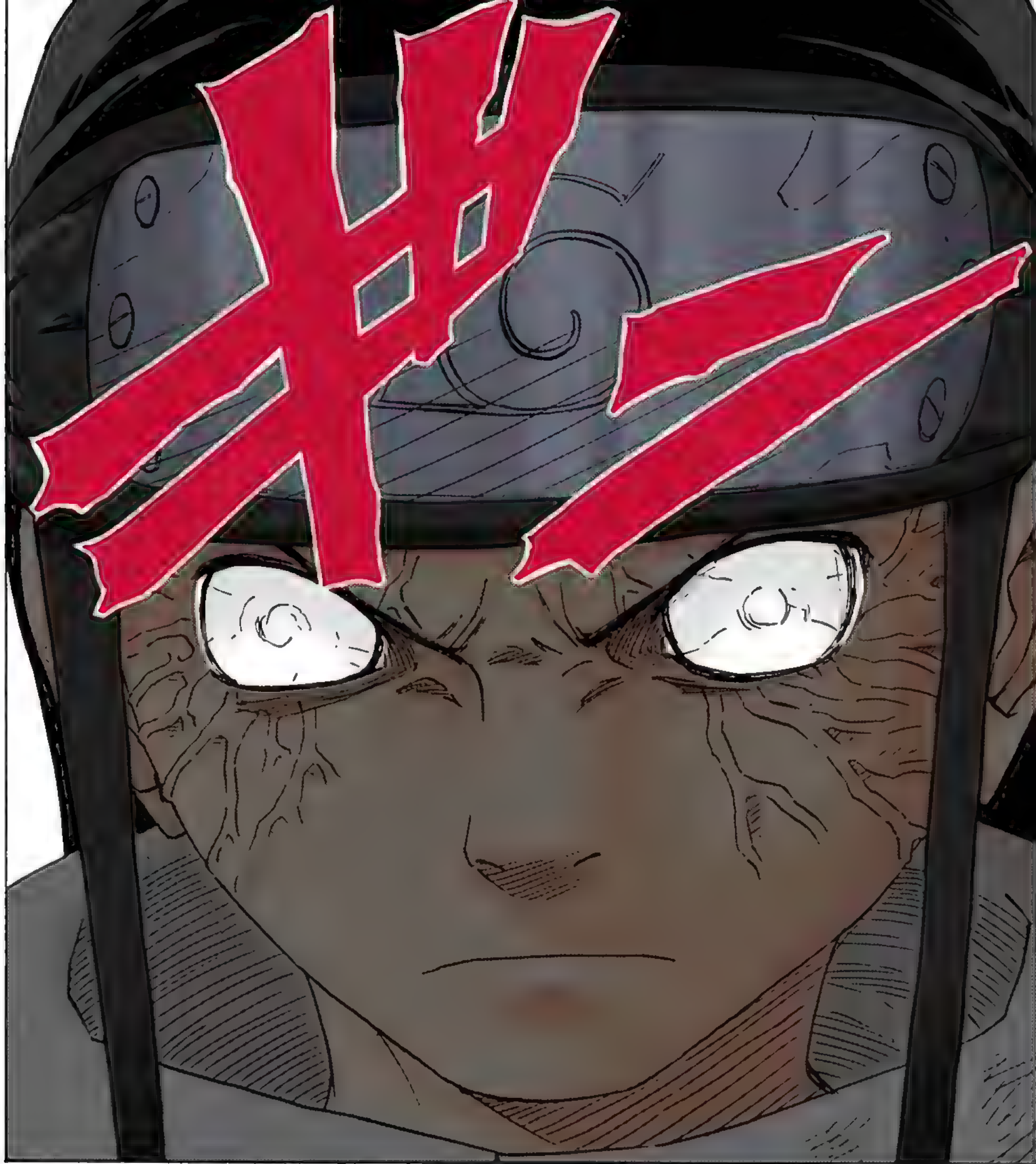
...AS THE FACT
THAT I'M OF
THE CADET
BRANCH OF
THE FAMILY...
AND YOU'RE A
MEMBER OF
THE MAIN
BRANCH.

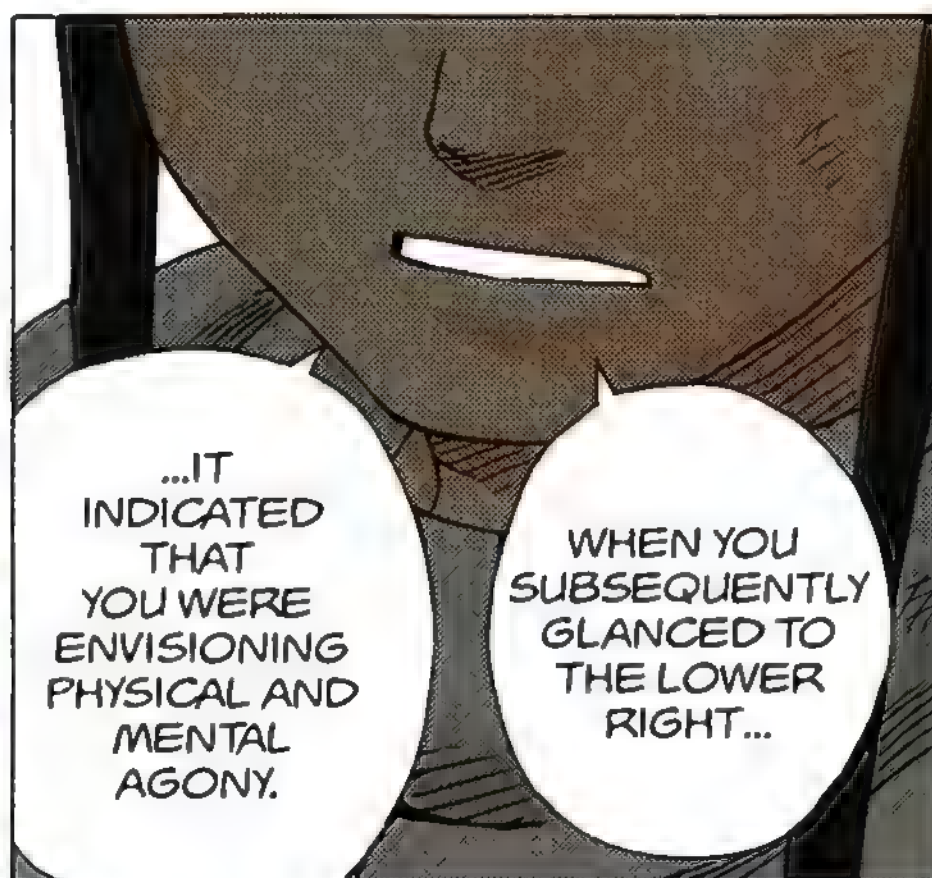
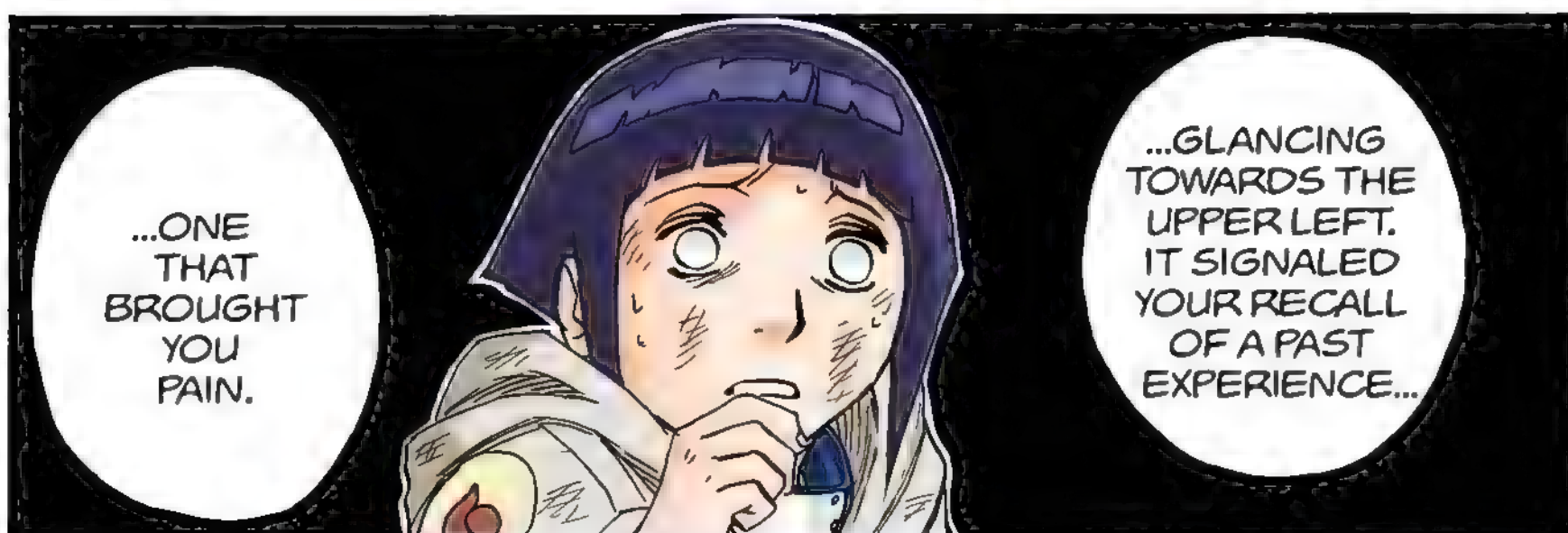
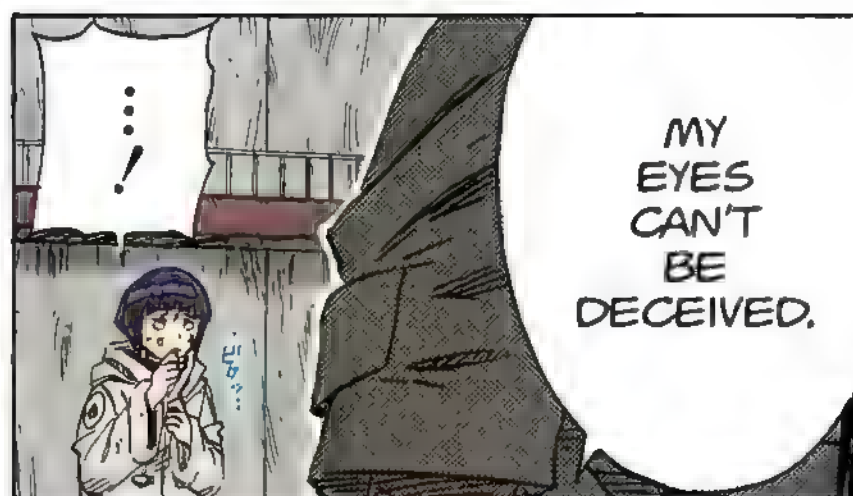
IT'S AS
UNCHANGE-
ABLE...



*GENETICALLY INHERITABLE TRAITS









...BECAUSE EVERYTHING I HAVE SAID SO FAR HAS BEEN RIGHT ON TARGET!



YOU IMPLORE ME TO COME NO FURTHER, TO PEEK NO MORE DEEPLY INTO THE INNERMOST SECRETS OF YOUR HEART...

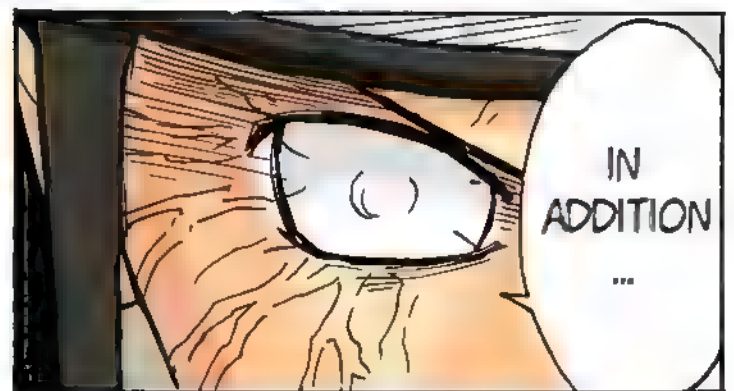
EVEN NOW, AS YOU BRING YOUR ARMS UP IN FRONT OF YOUR BODY AS IF TO SHIELD YOURSELF...

...YOUR BODY IS SIGNALING YOUR DESIRE TO RAISE A WALL BETWEEN US... TO CREATE SOME DISTANCE FROM ME.

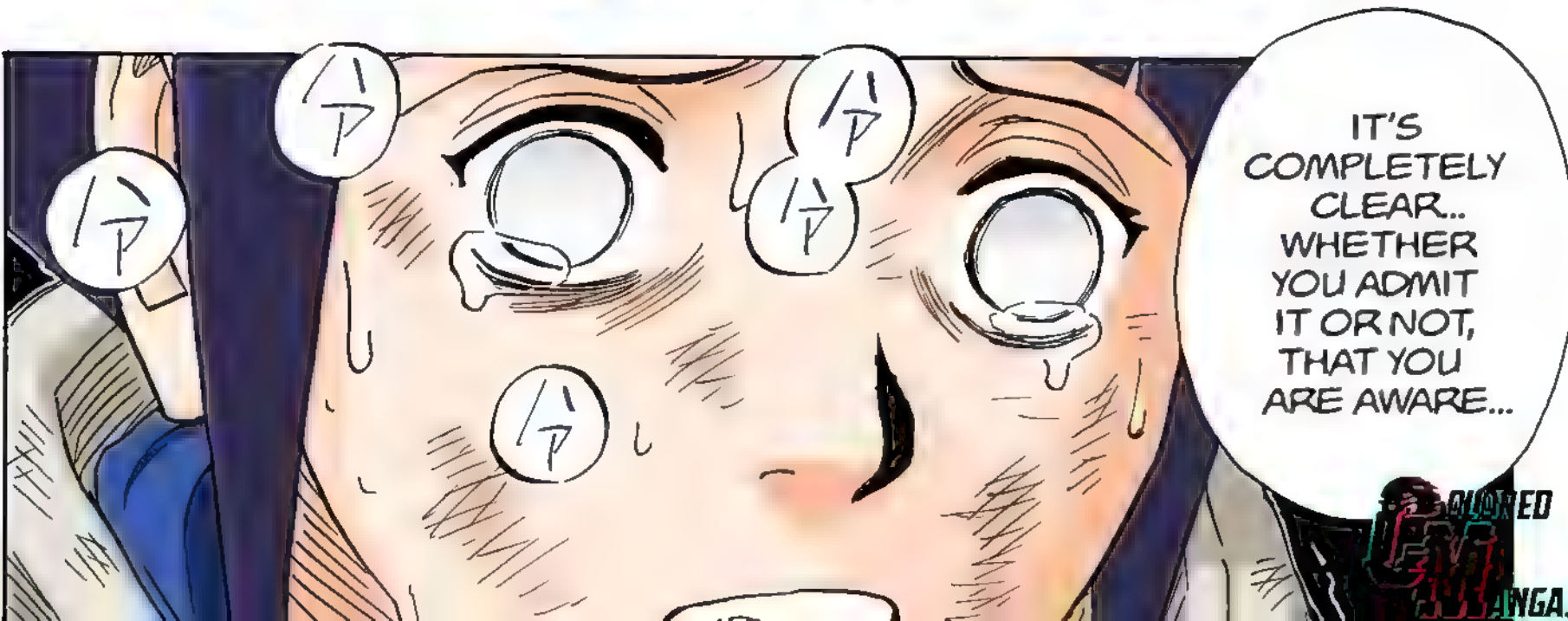
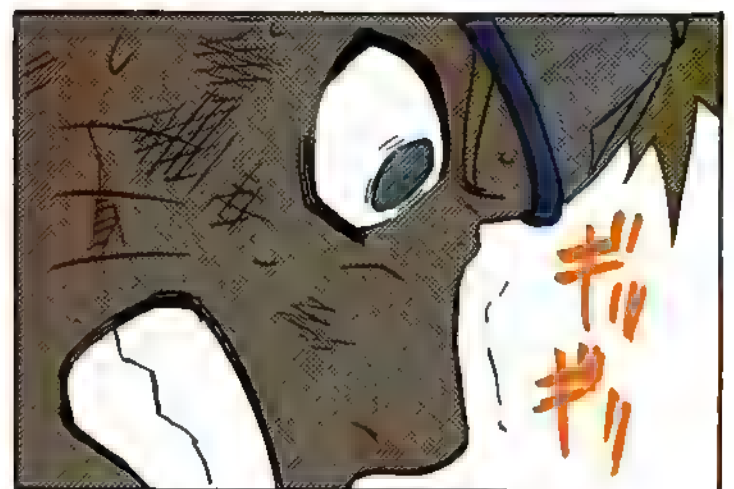


IT'S A DEFENSIVE REFLEX... AN ATTEMPT TO EASE YOUR OWN ANXIETIES AND DOUBTS...

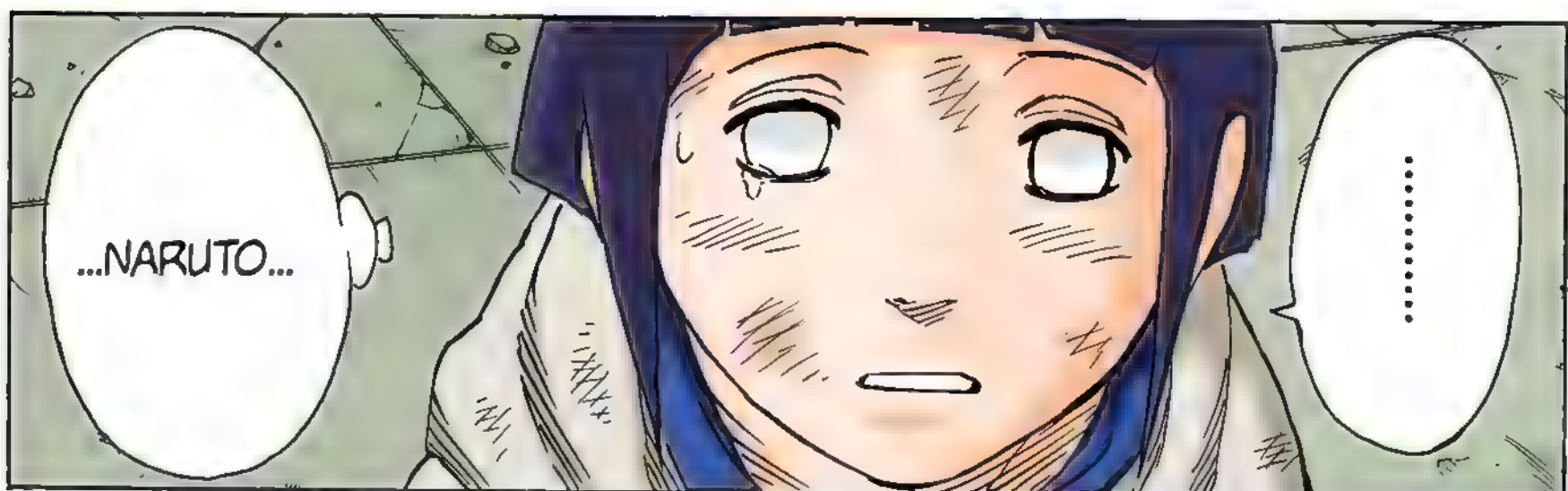
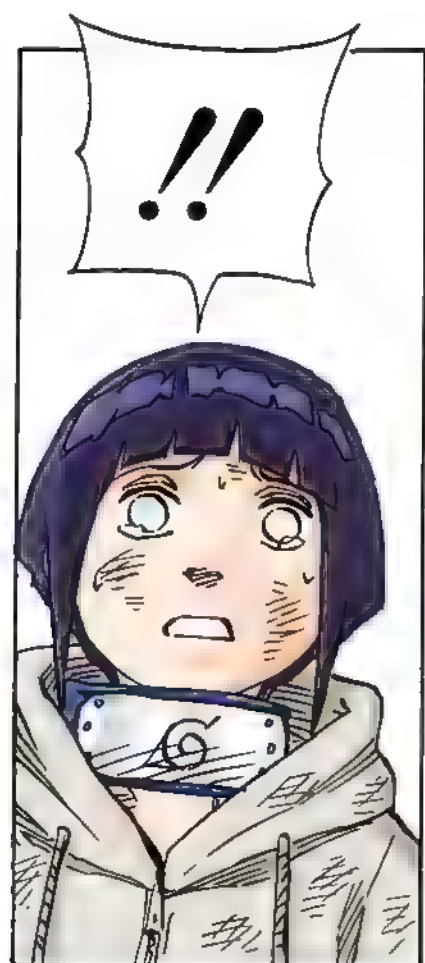
THE WAY YOU'RE TOUCHING YOUR LIP...IT'S ANOTHER OF THOSE TENDER, INTIMATE BEHAVIORS THAT EXPRESSES THE AGITATION IN YOUR HEART...



IN ADDITION ...



IT'S COMPLETELY CLEAR... WHETHER YOU ADMIT IT OR NOT, THAT YOU ARE AWARE...

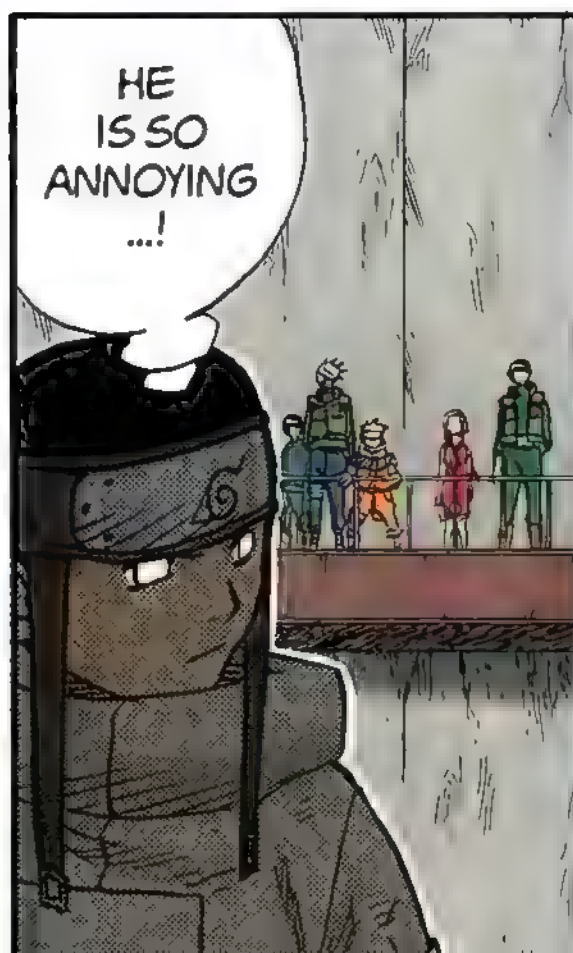
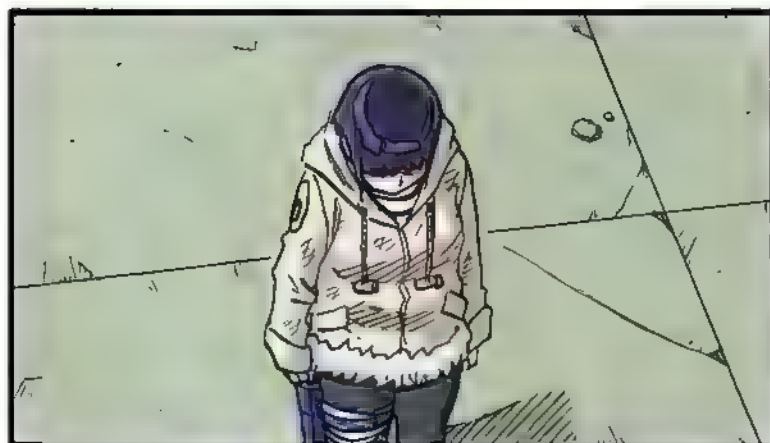
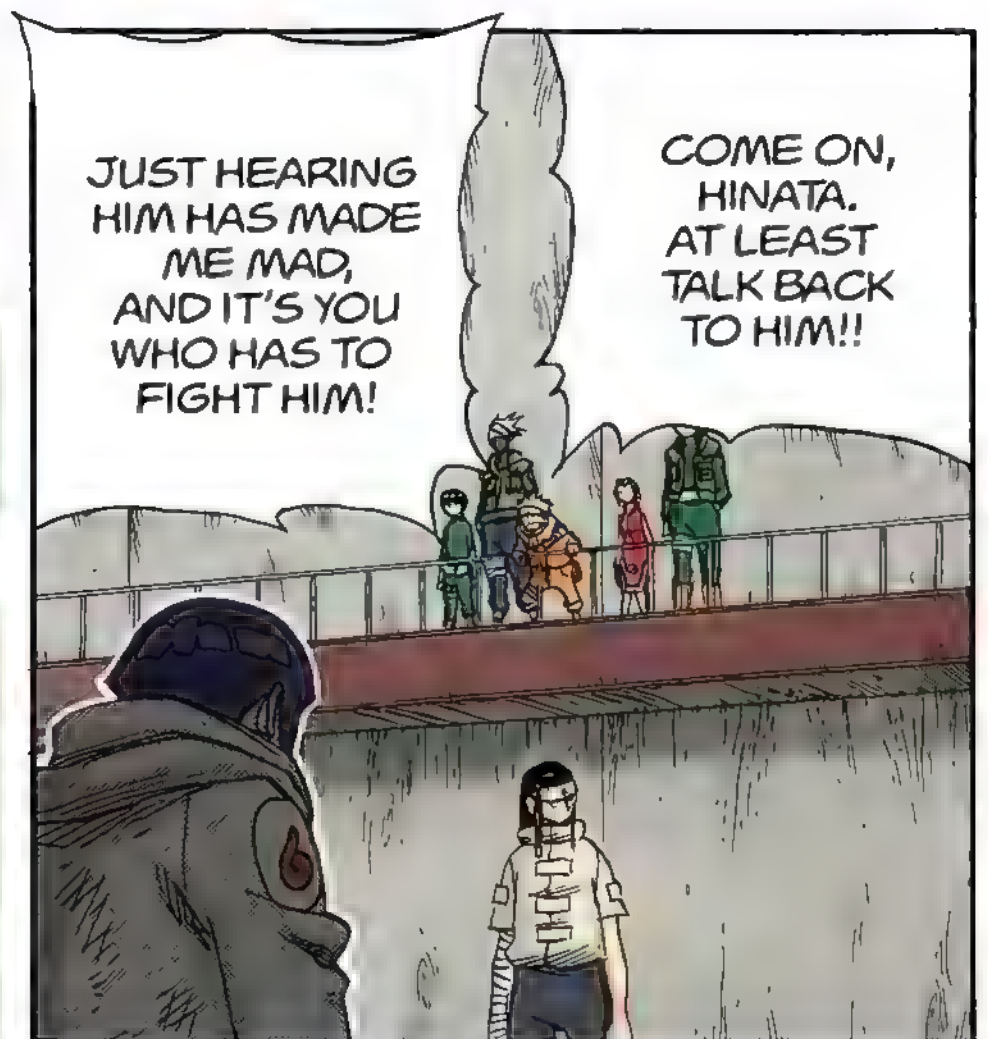
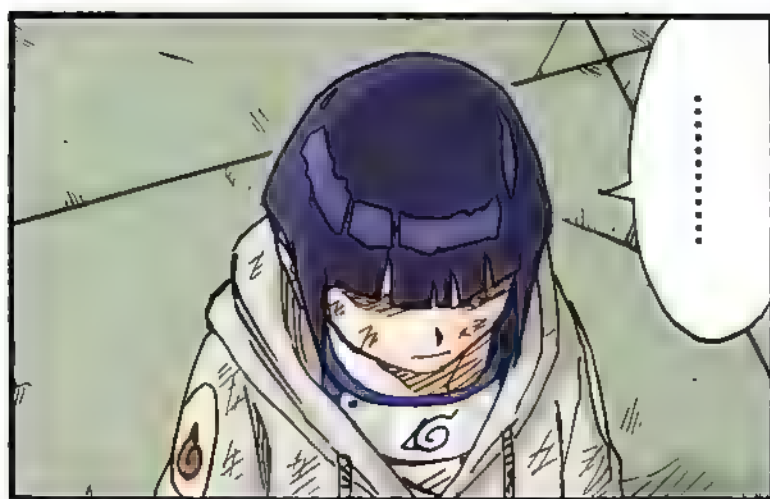
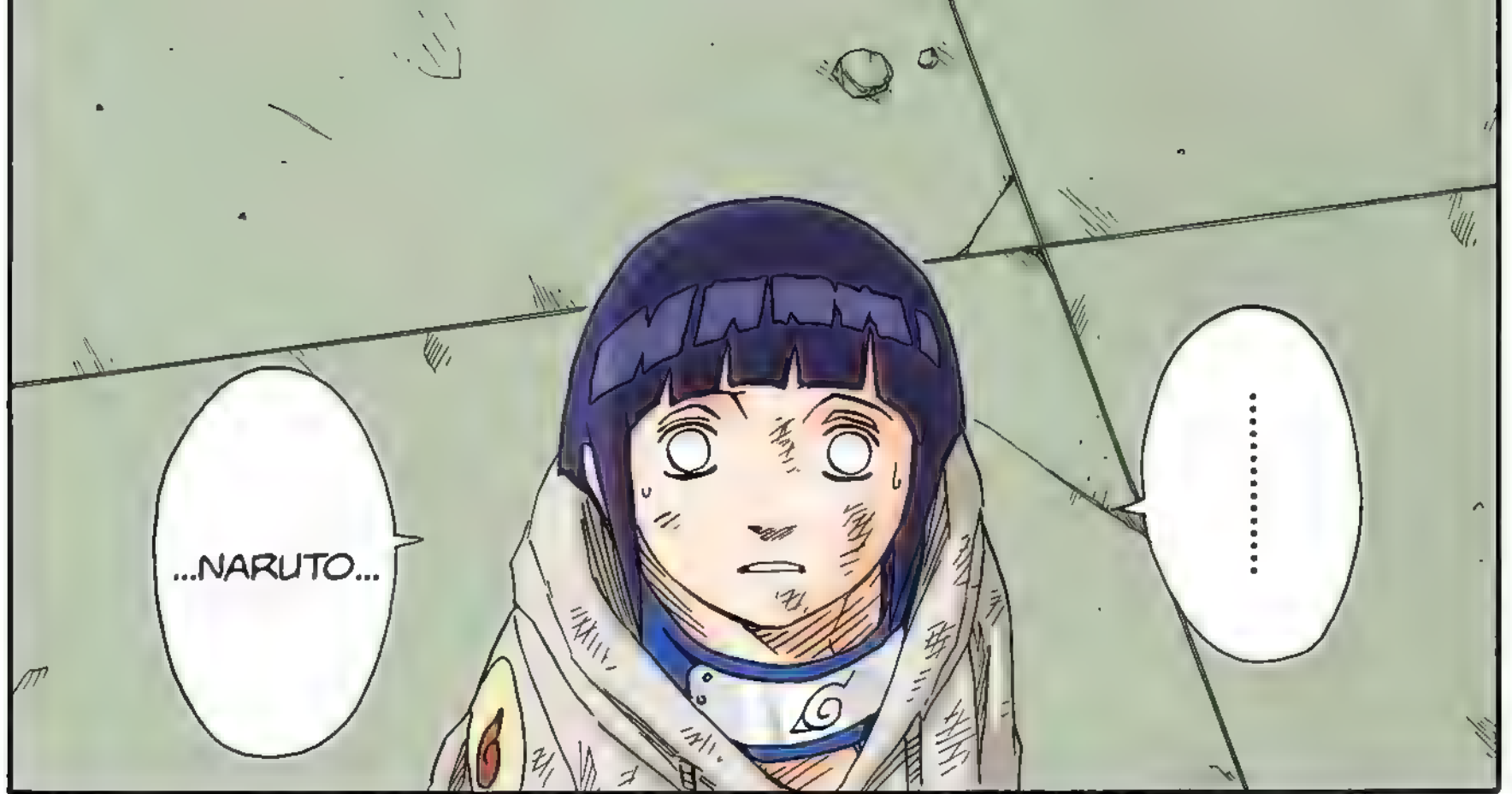


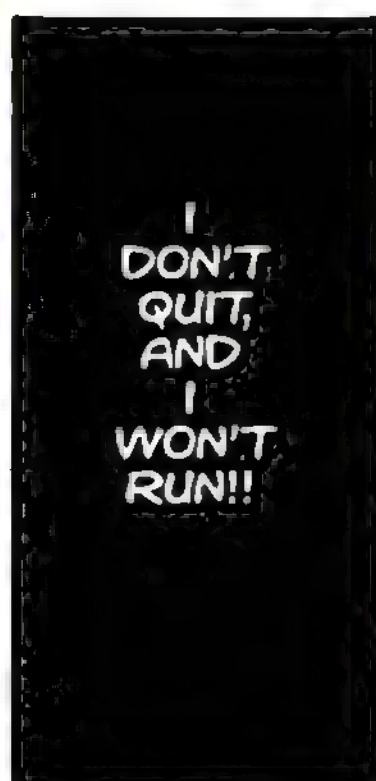
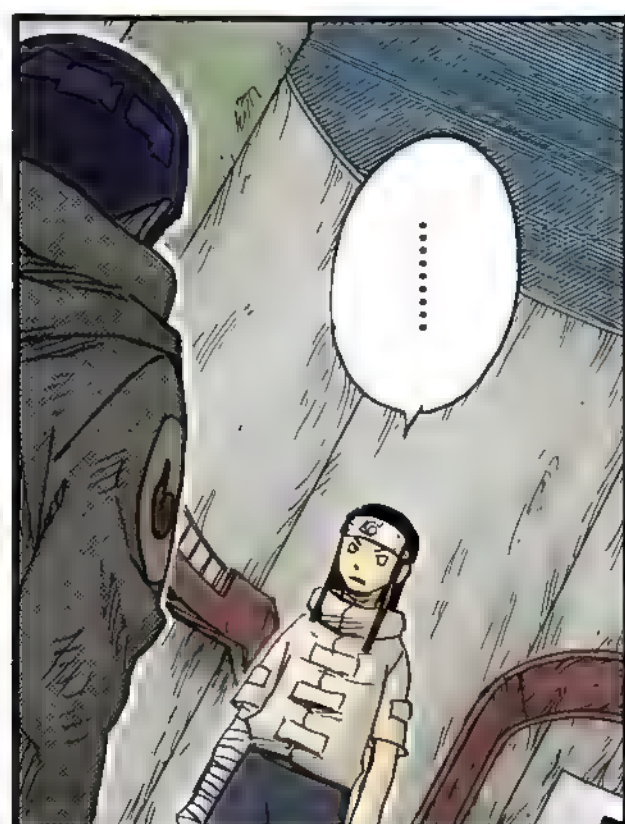
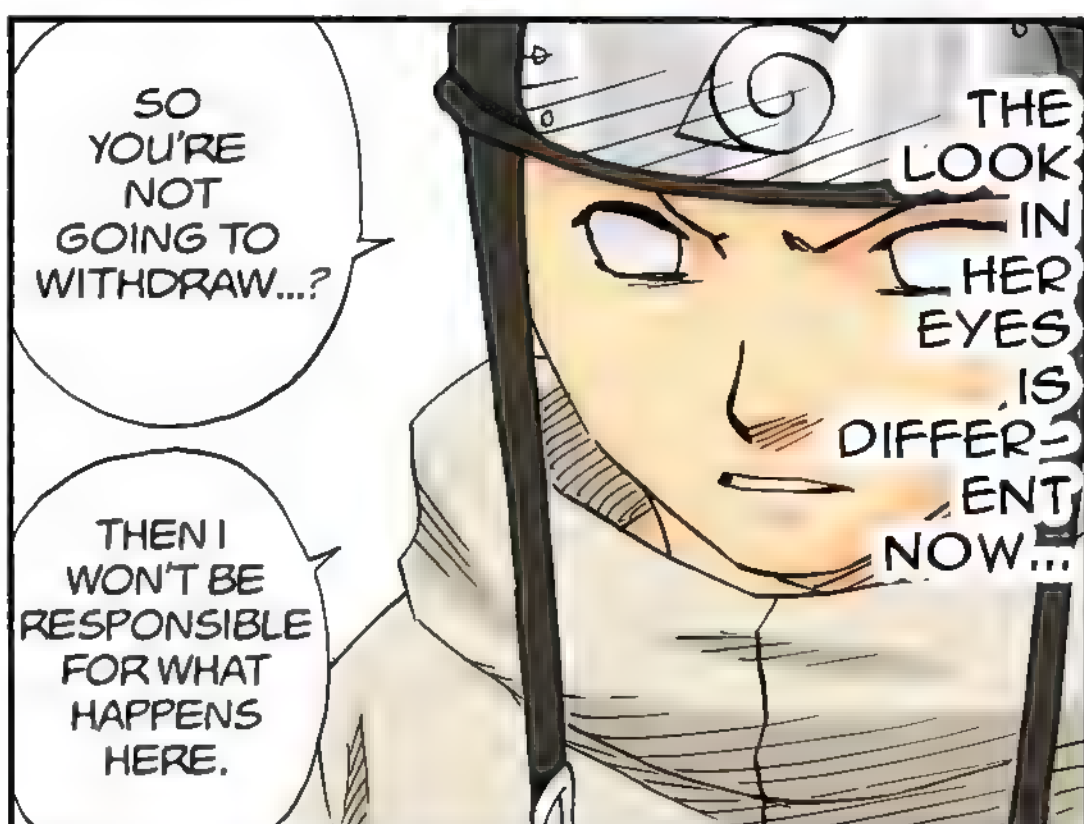
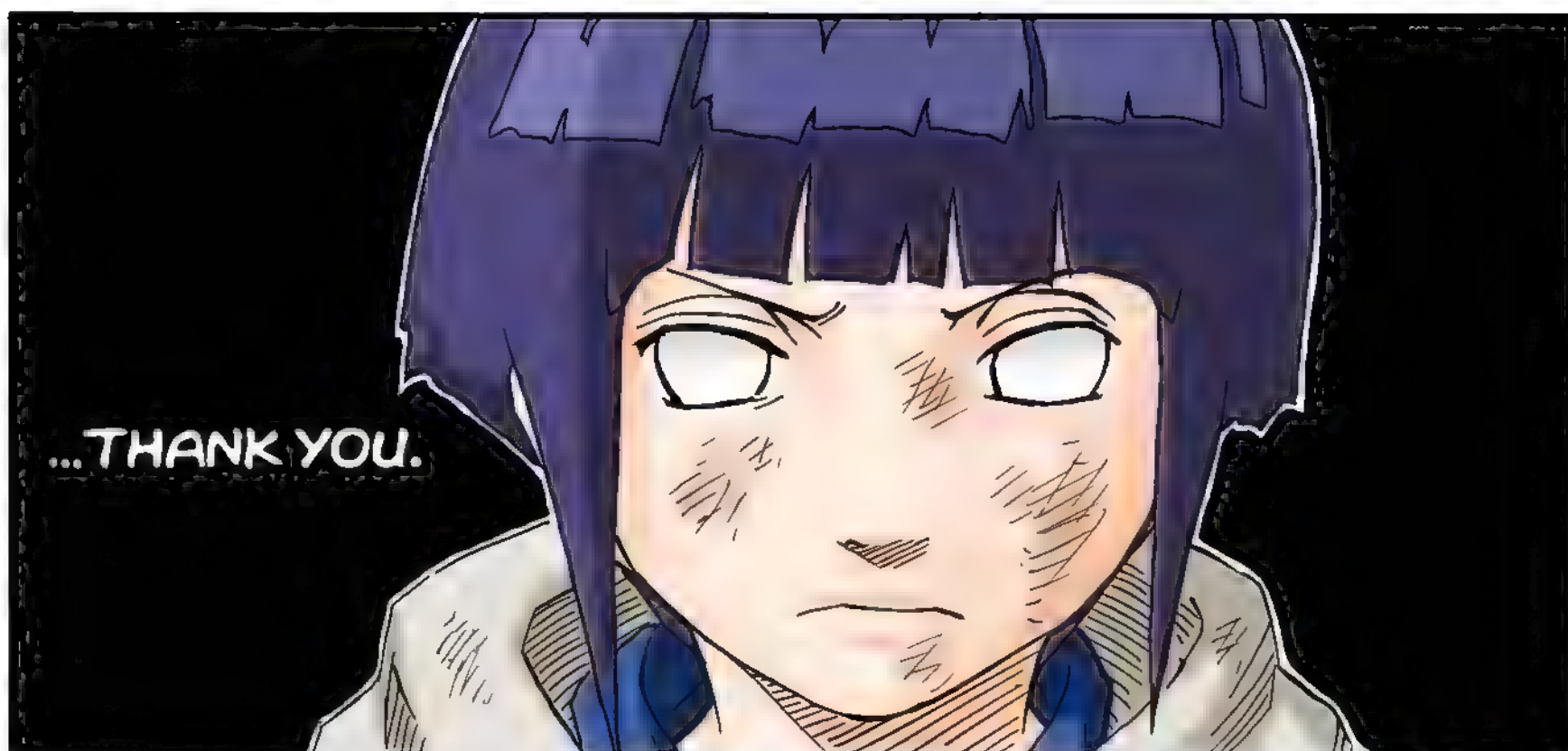
ナンバー

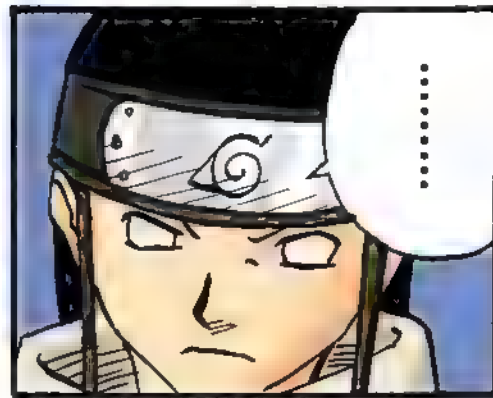
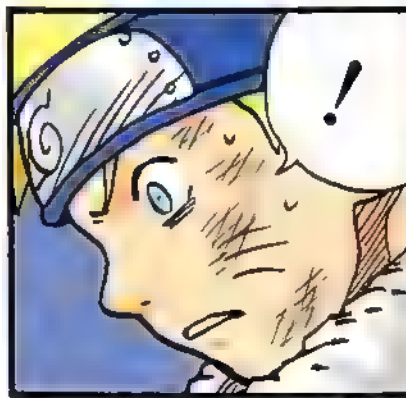
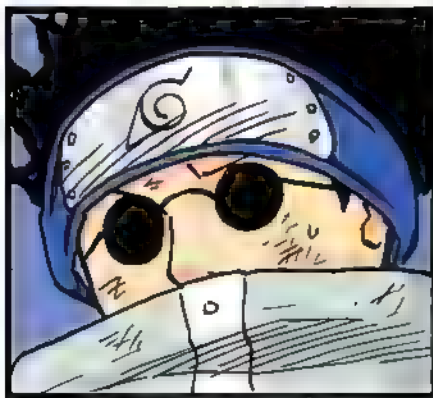
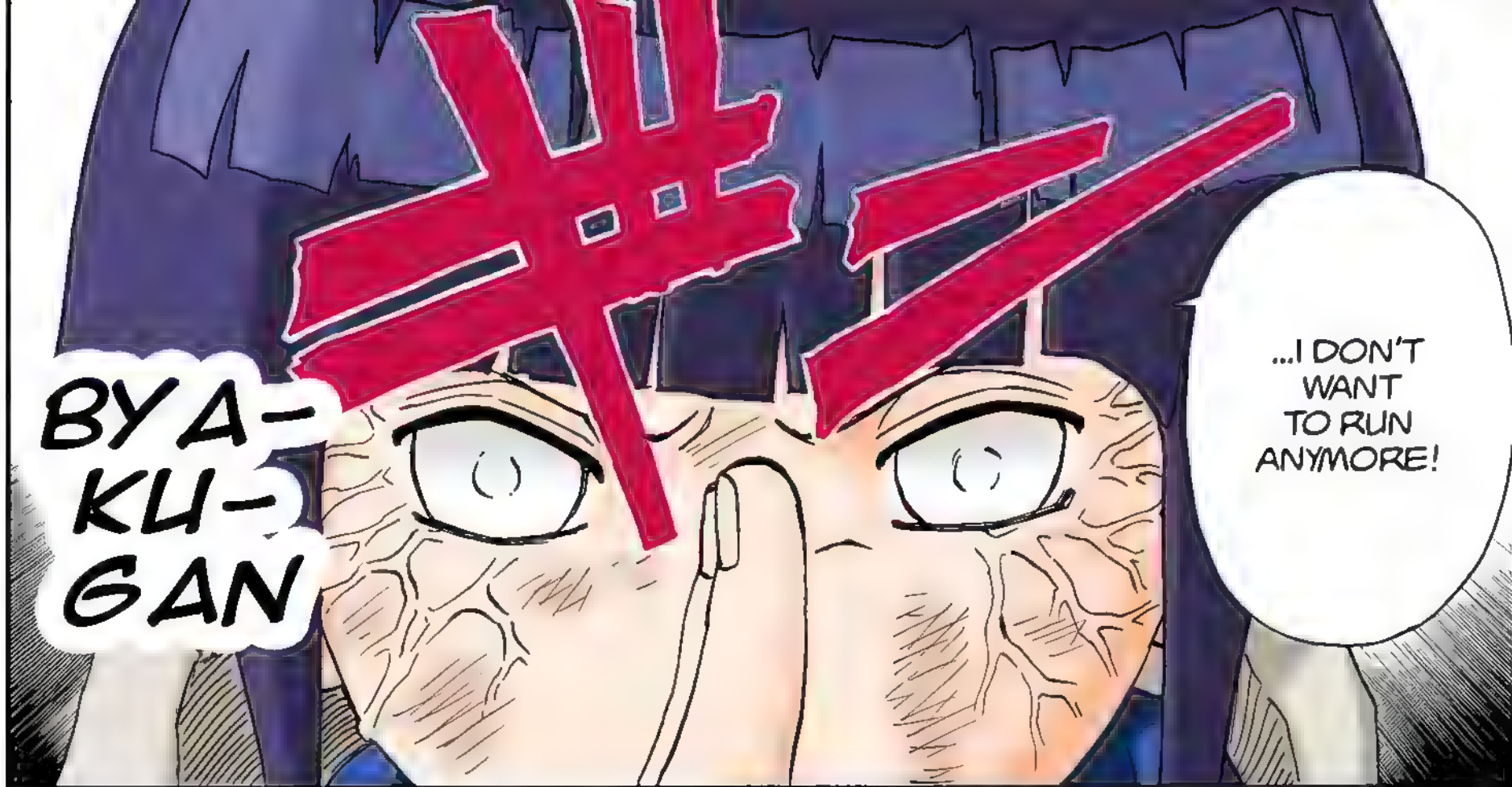


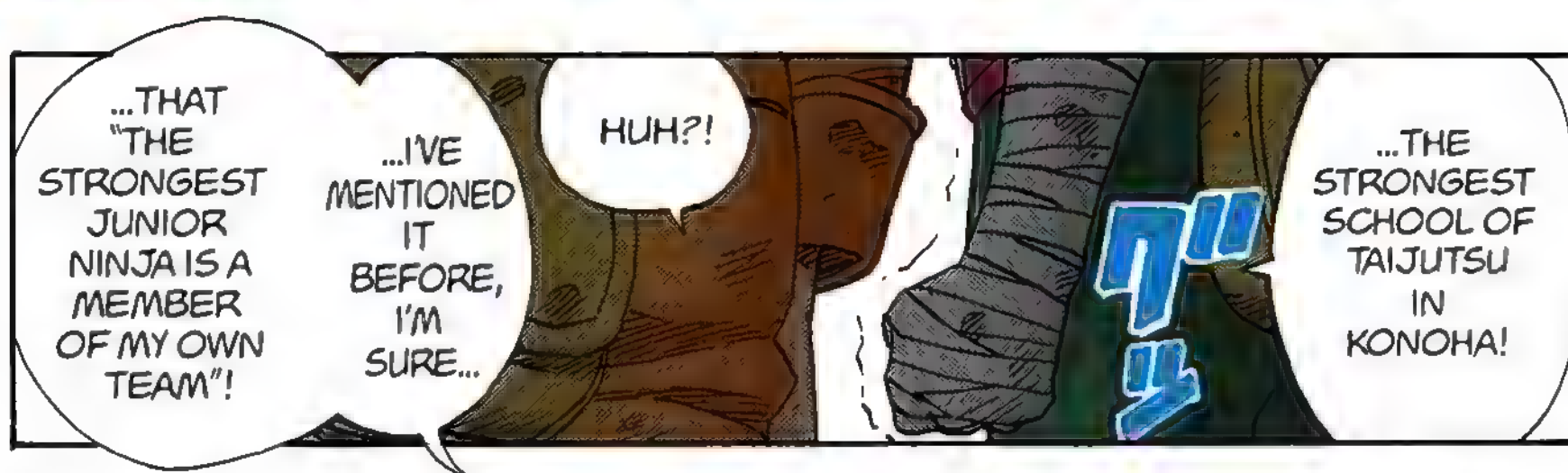
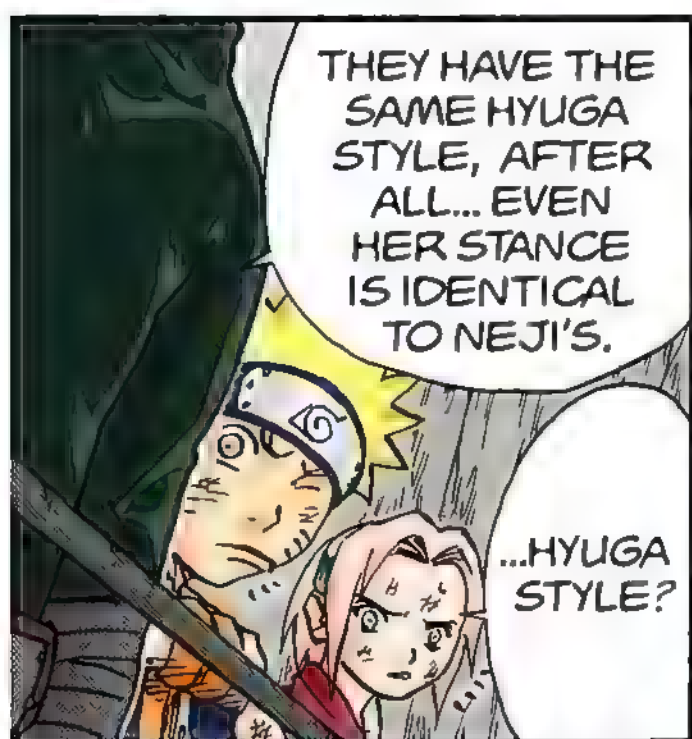
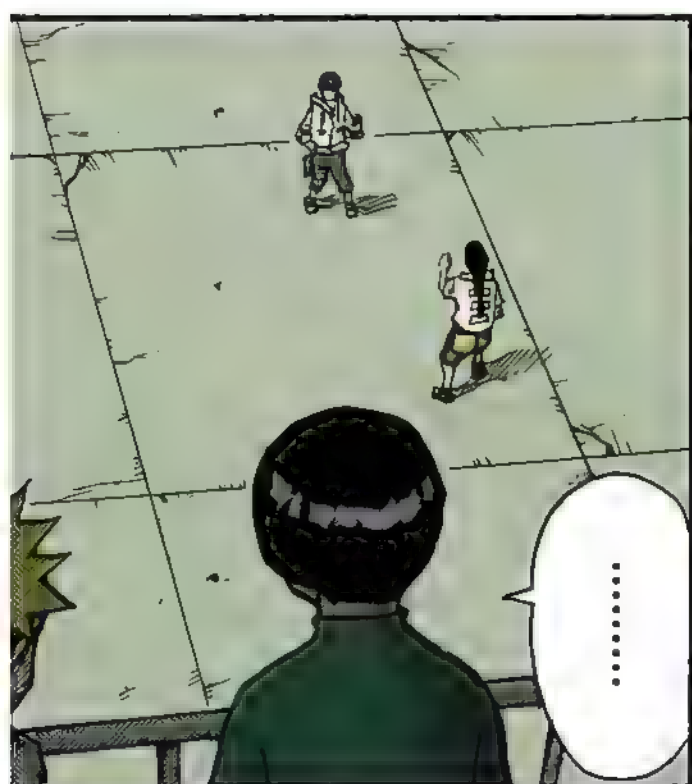
79 : THE HYUGA CLAN



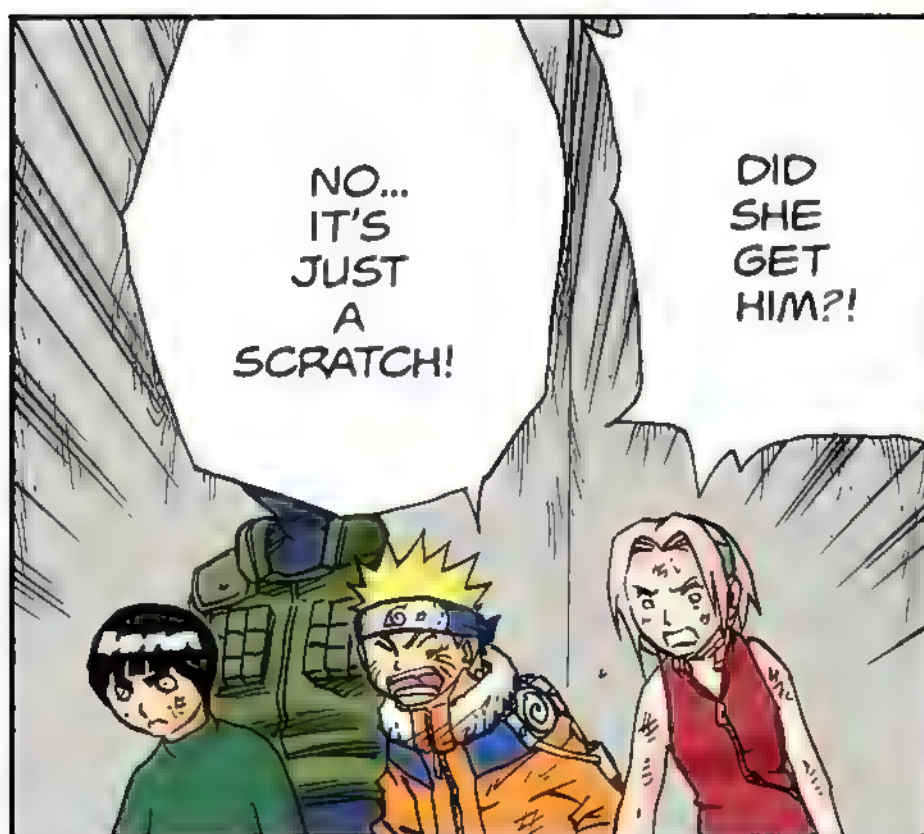
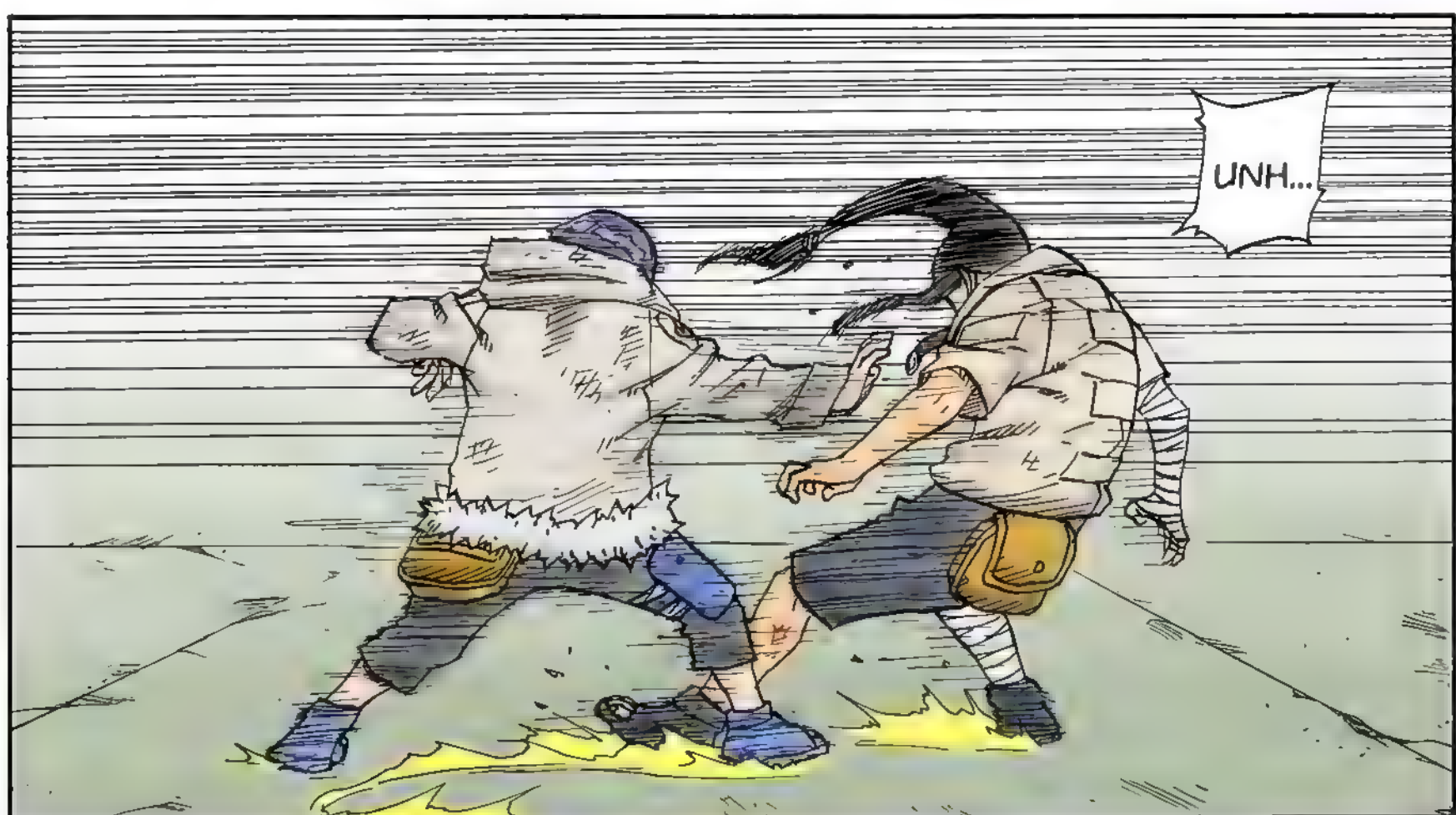
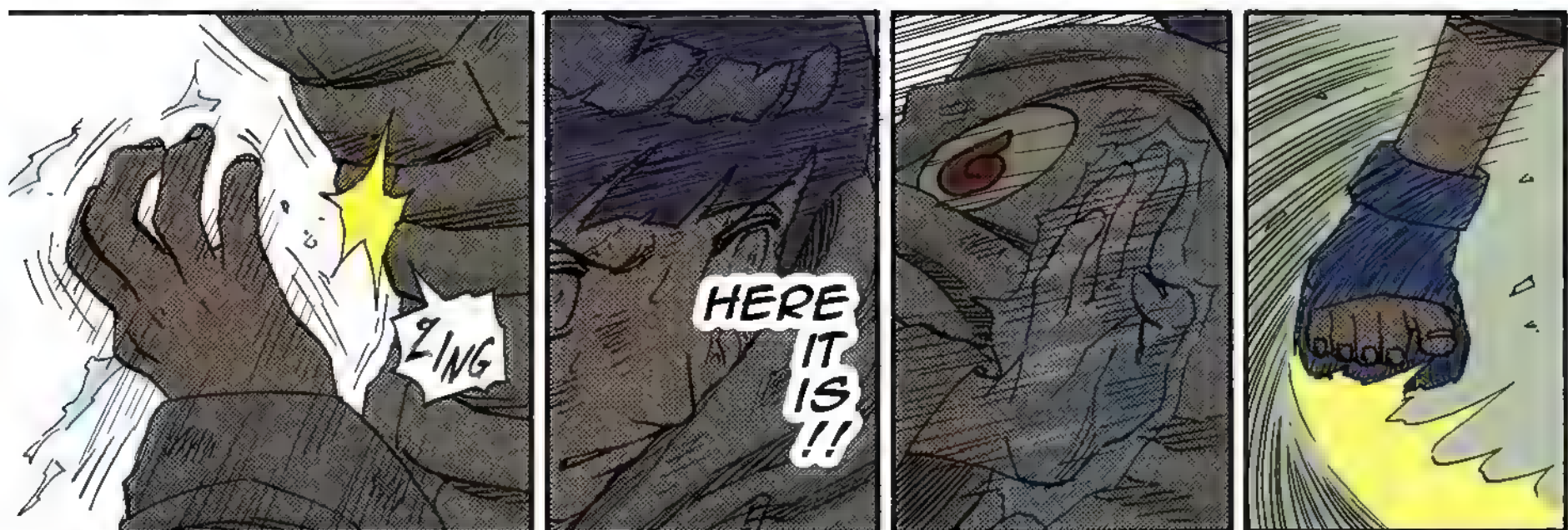


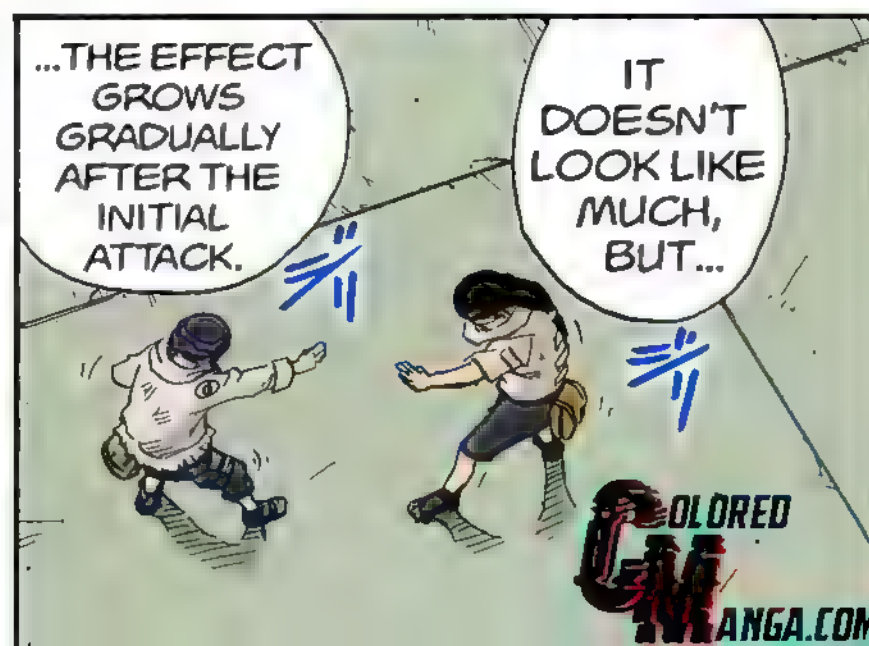
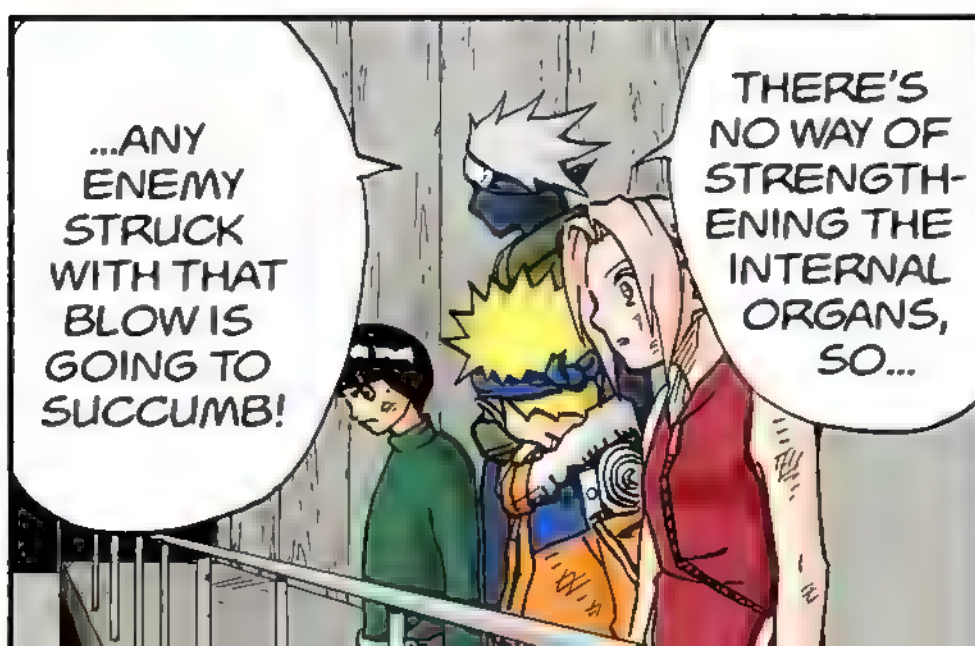
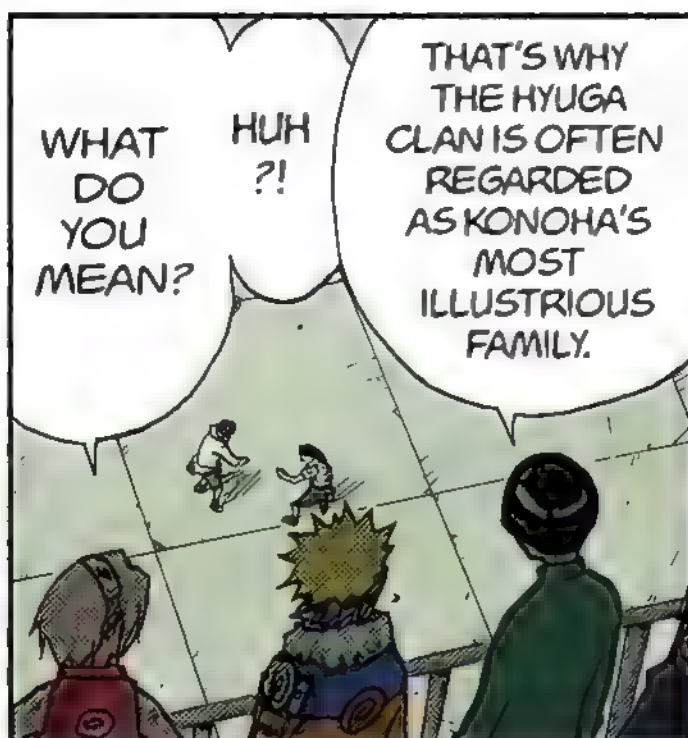
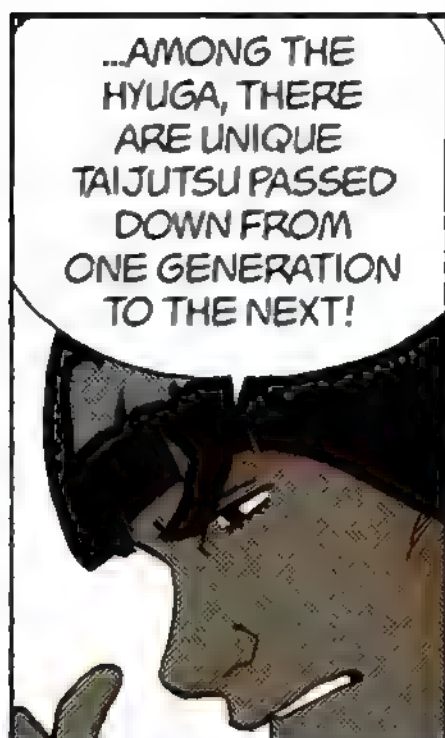


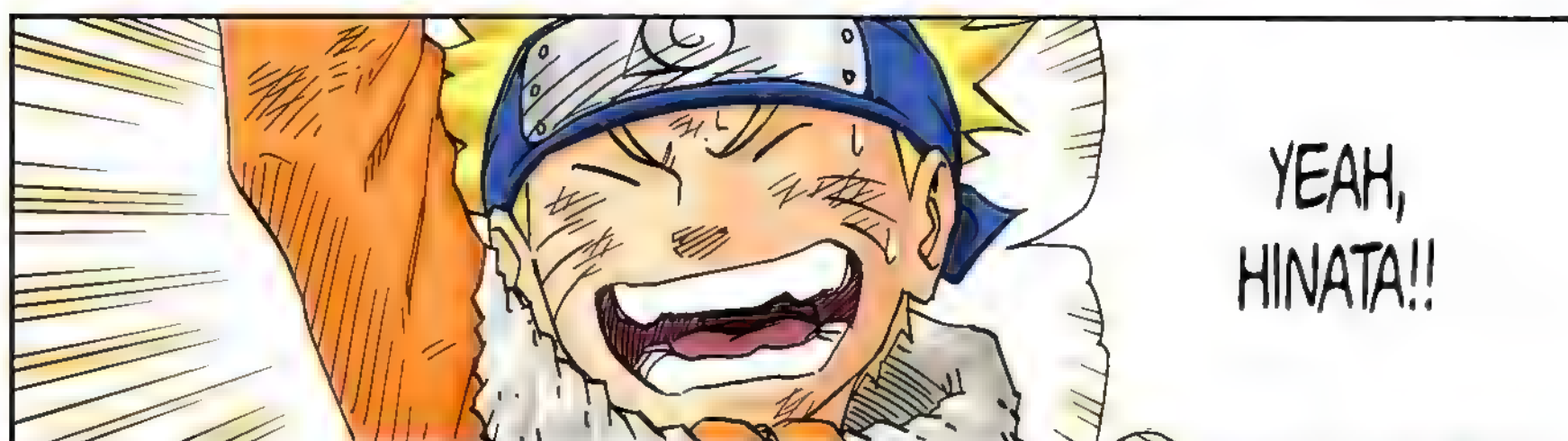
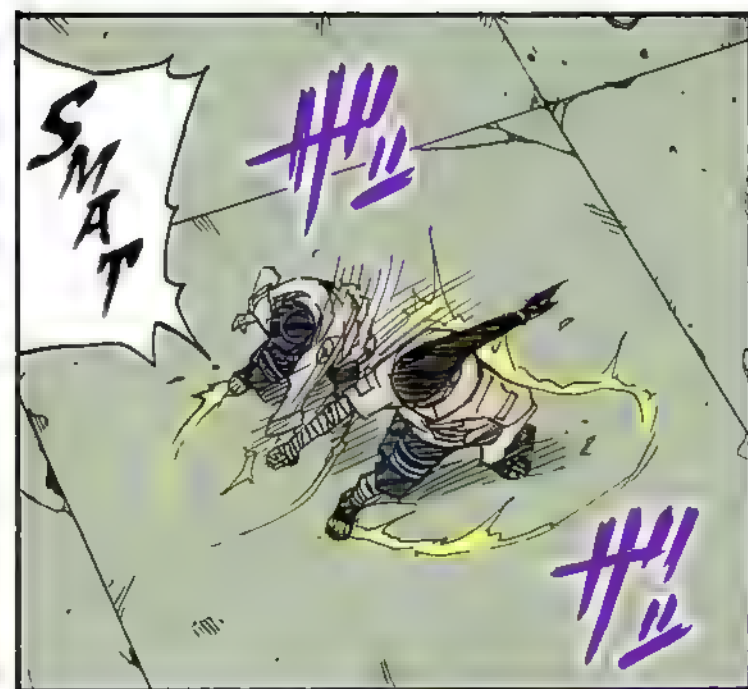
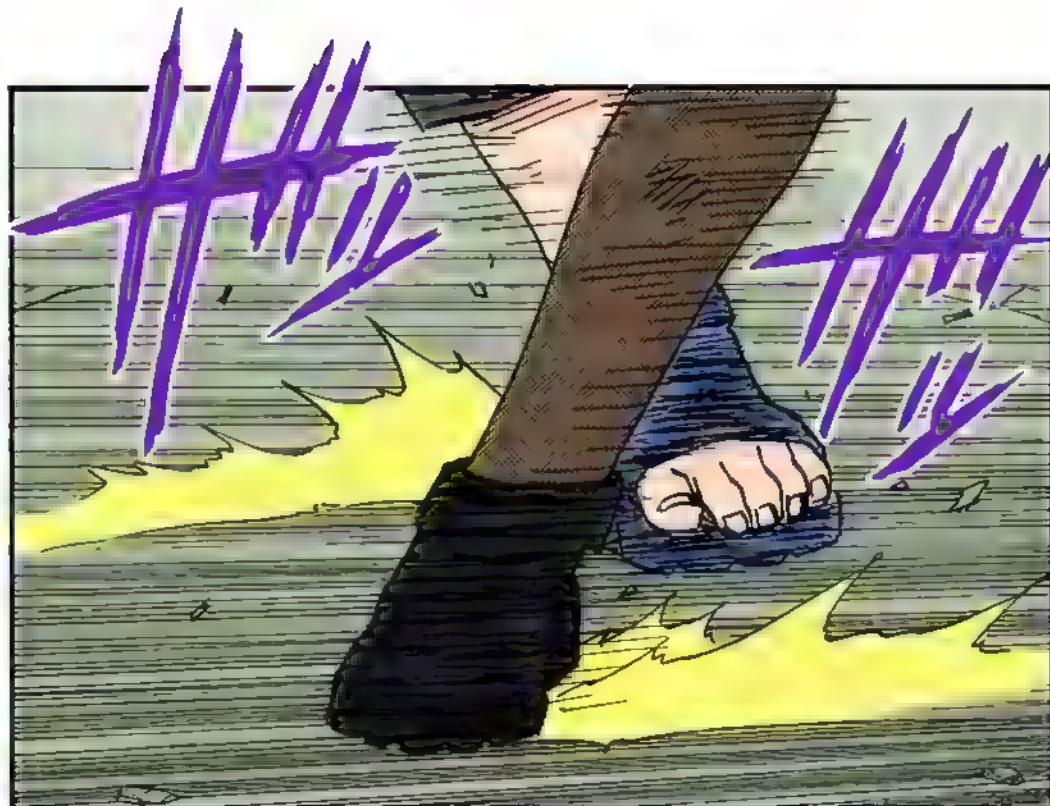


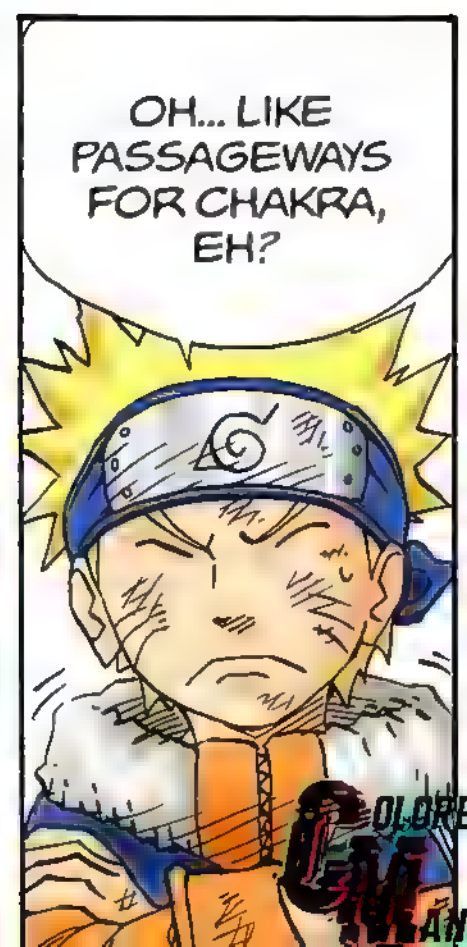
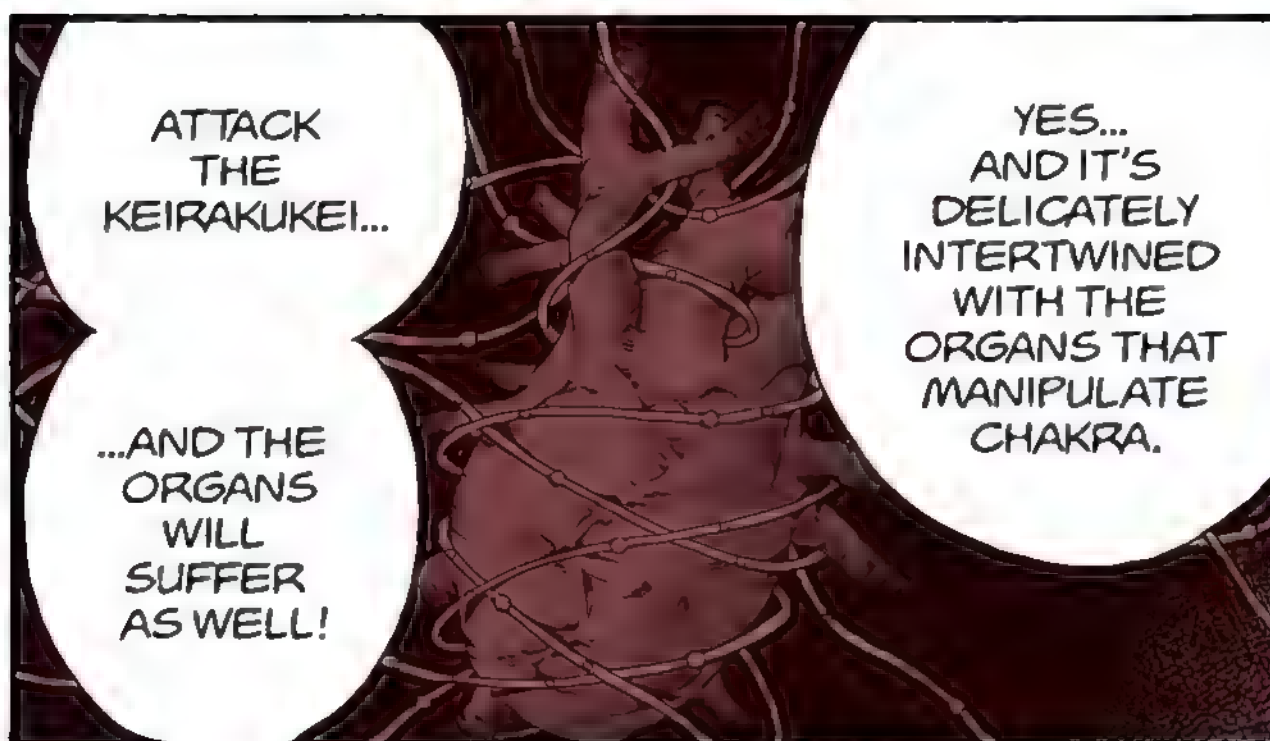
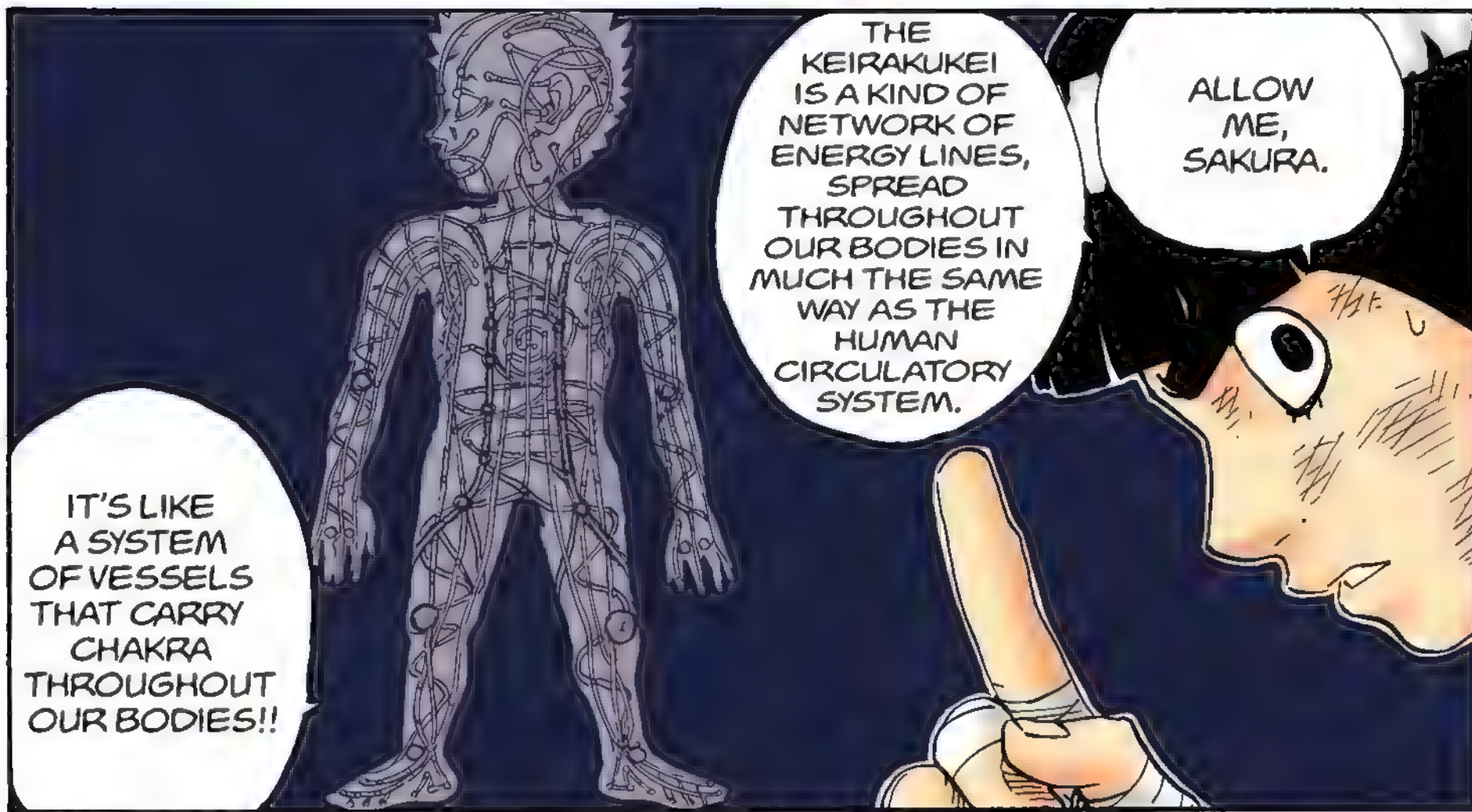
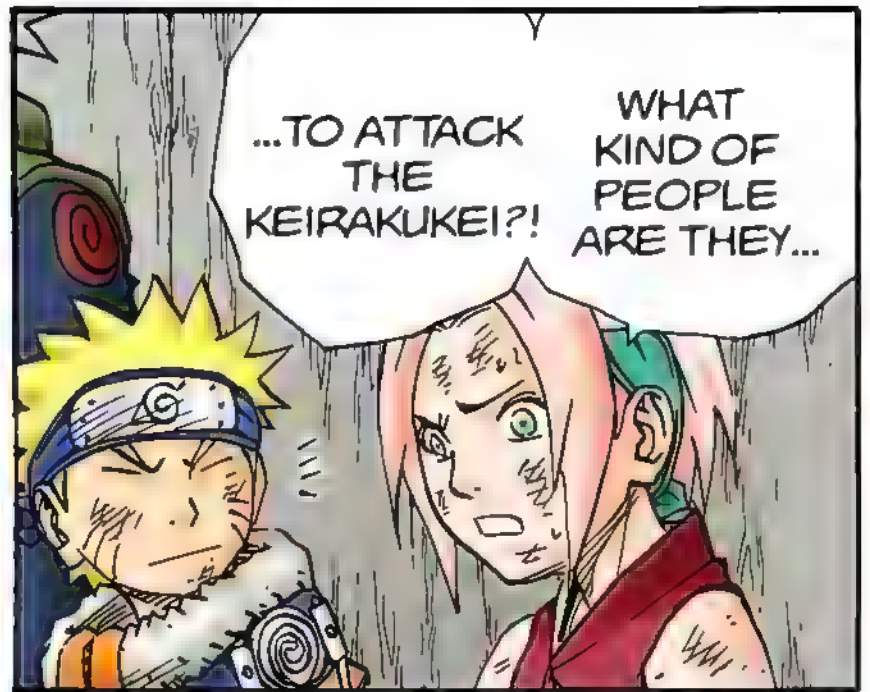


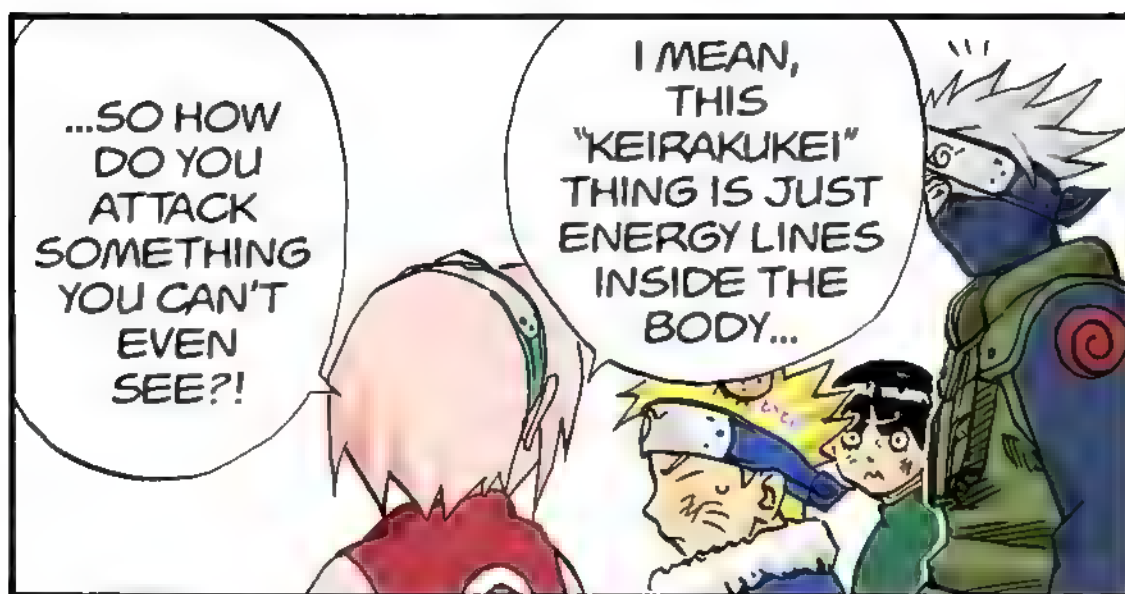
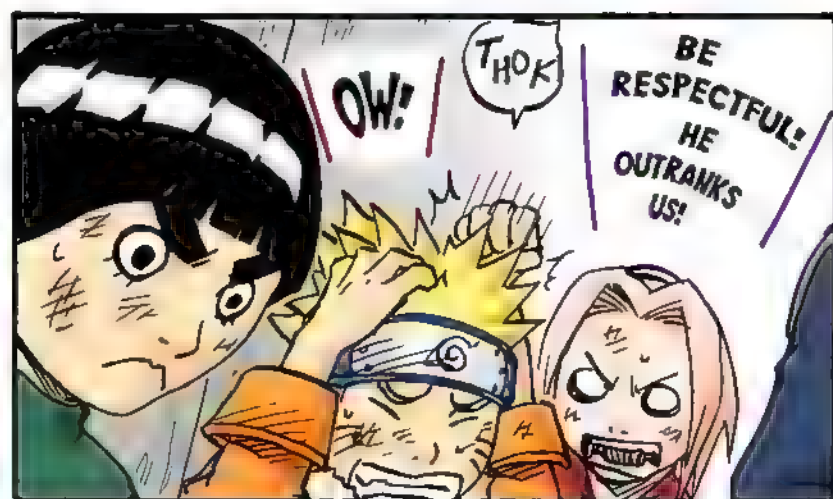
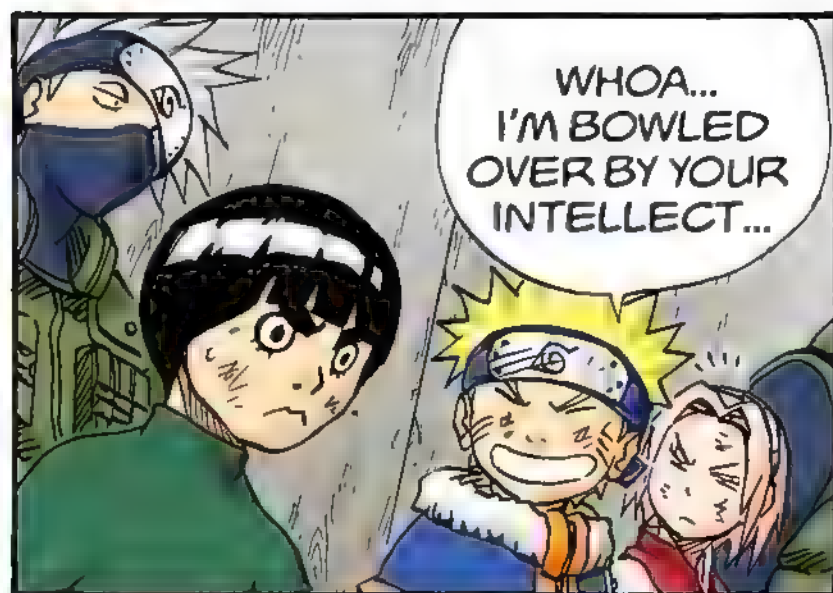


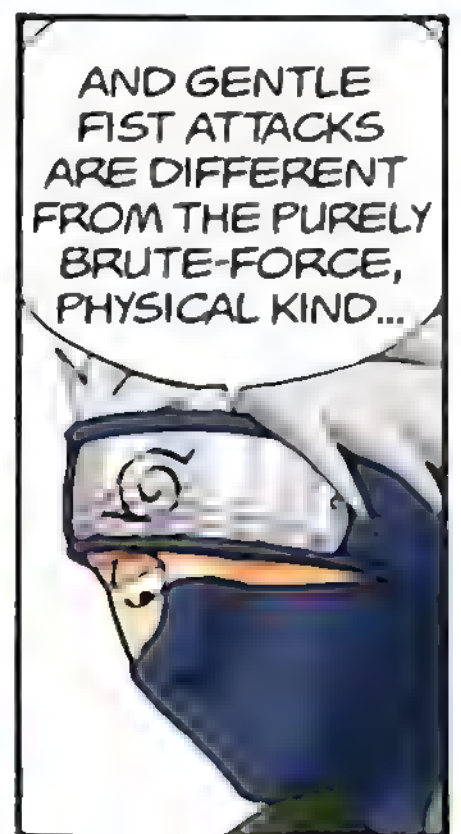




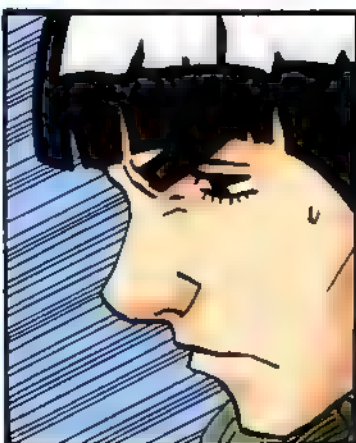
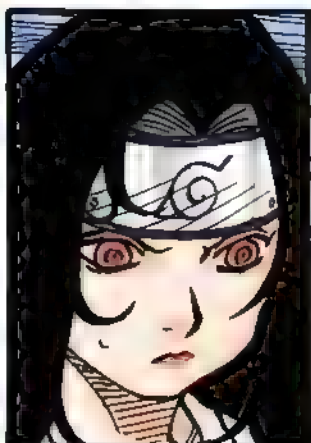
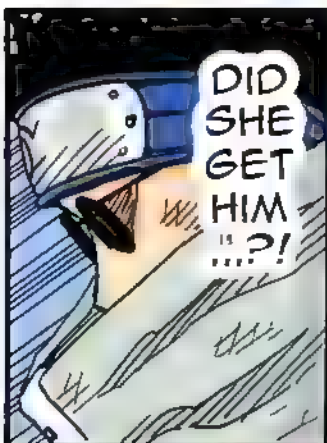
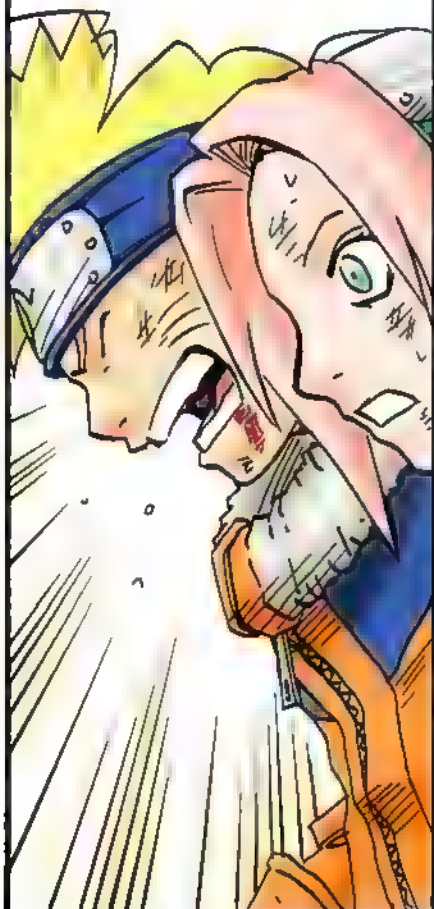


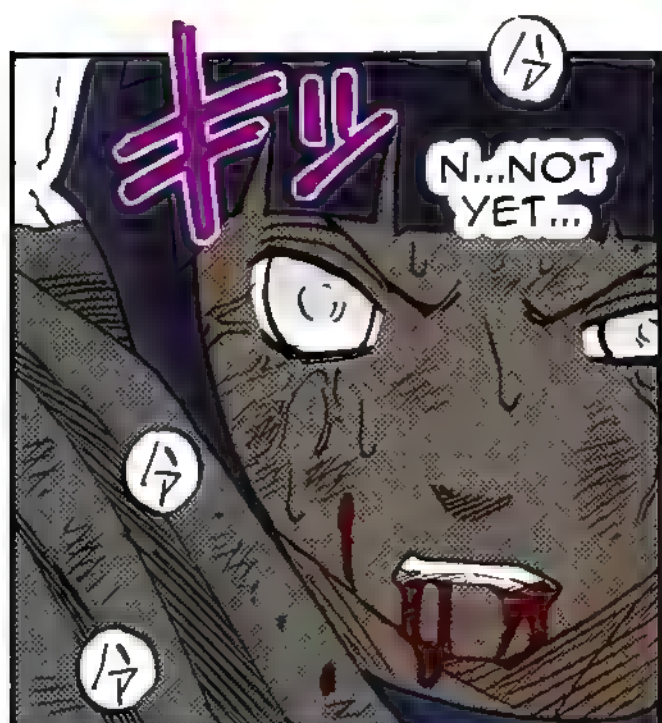
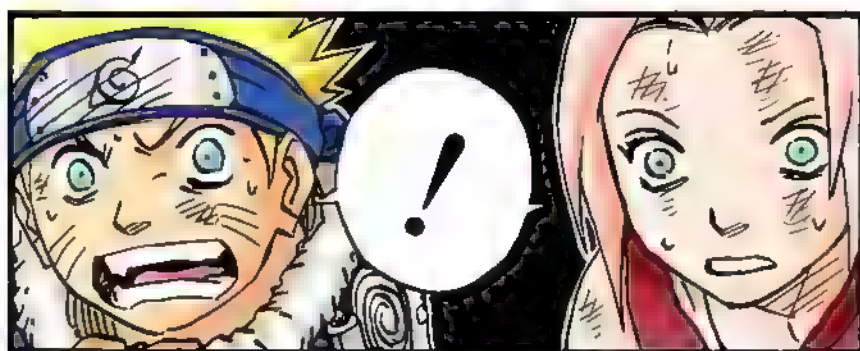
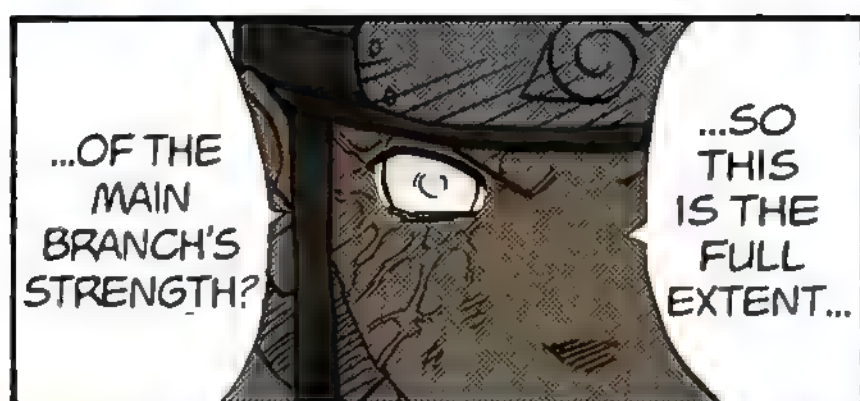
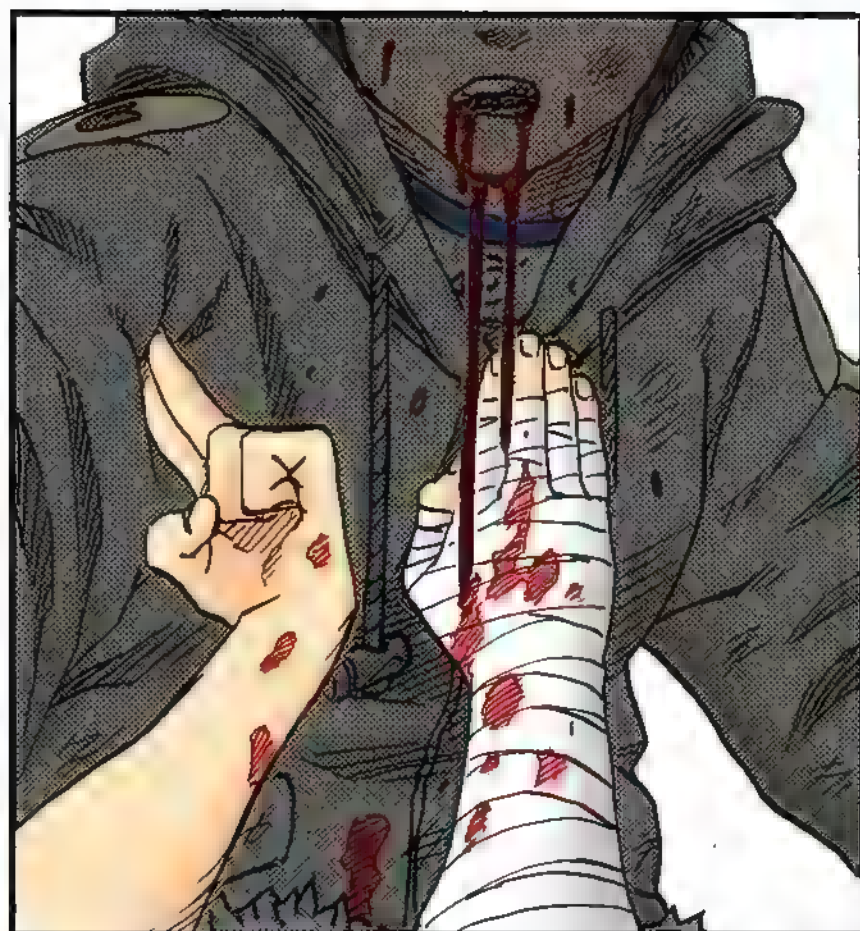


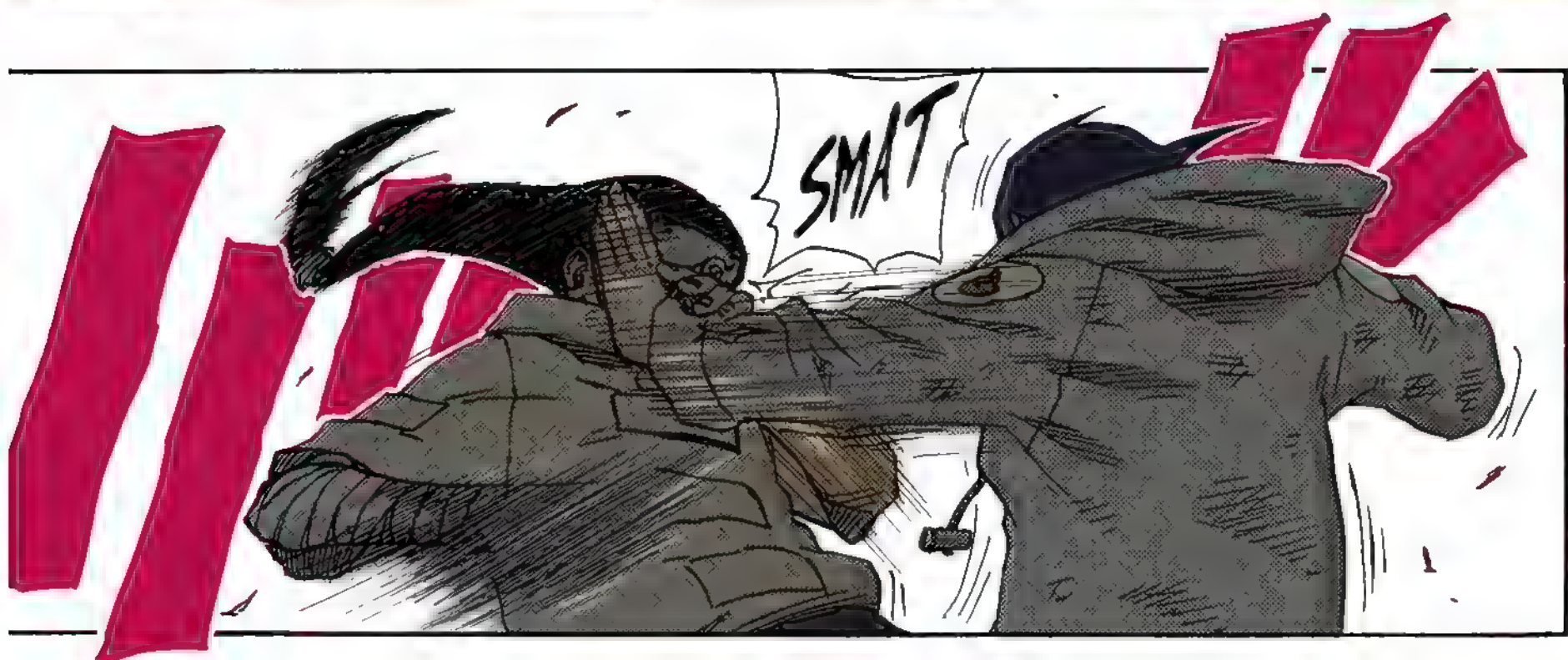




ALL
RIGHT!!









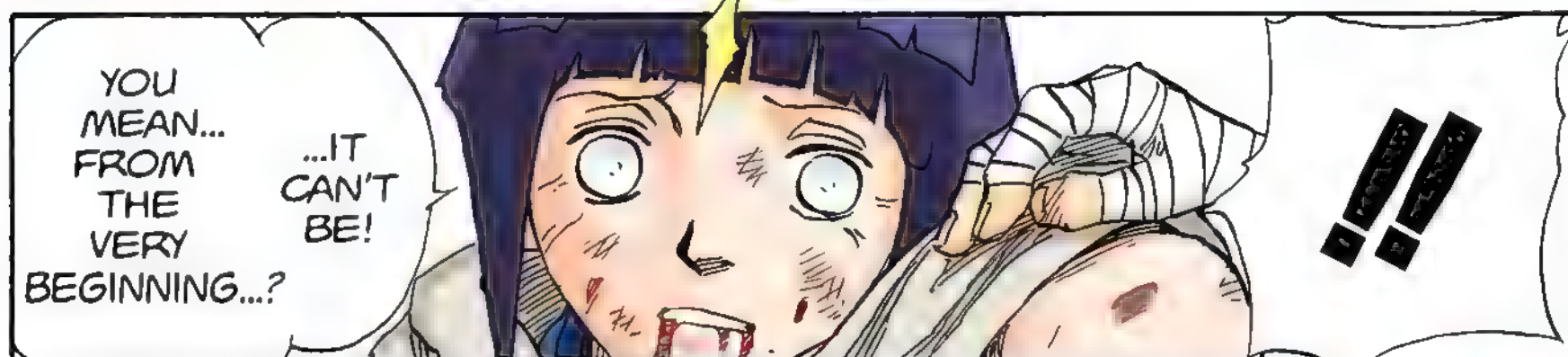
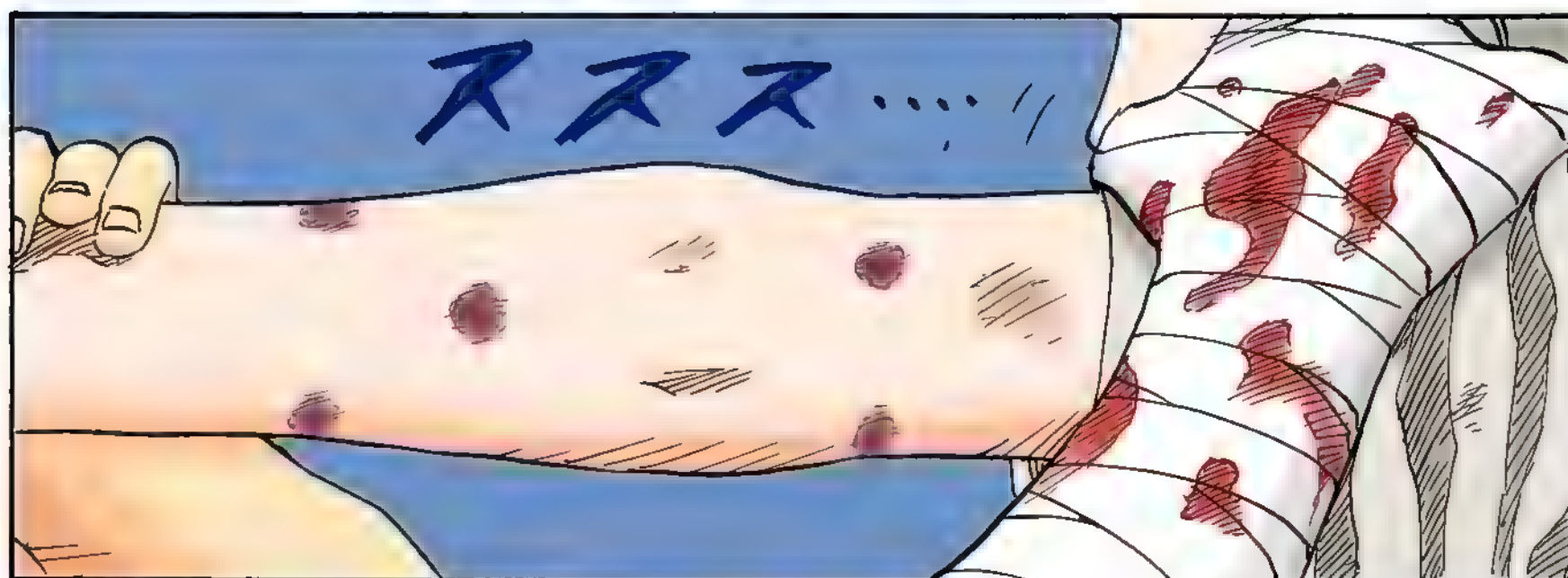
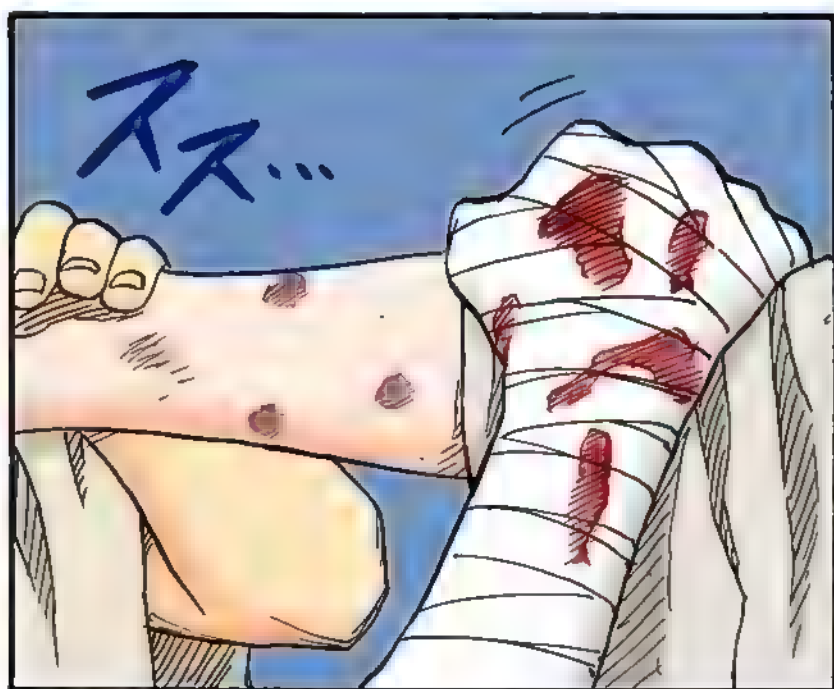
MY, MY...IT SEEMS THOSE WHO'VE CALLED HIM THE GREATEST GENIUS IN HYUGA CLAN HISTORY HAVEN'T OVER-
STATED THE CASE.



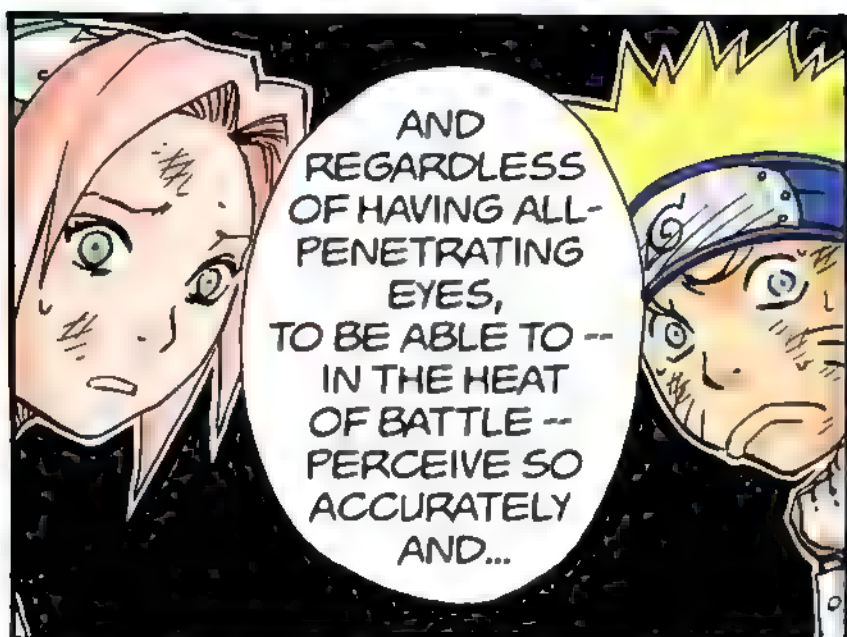
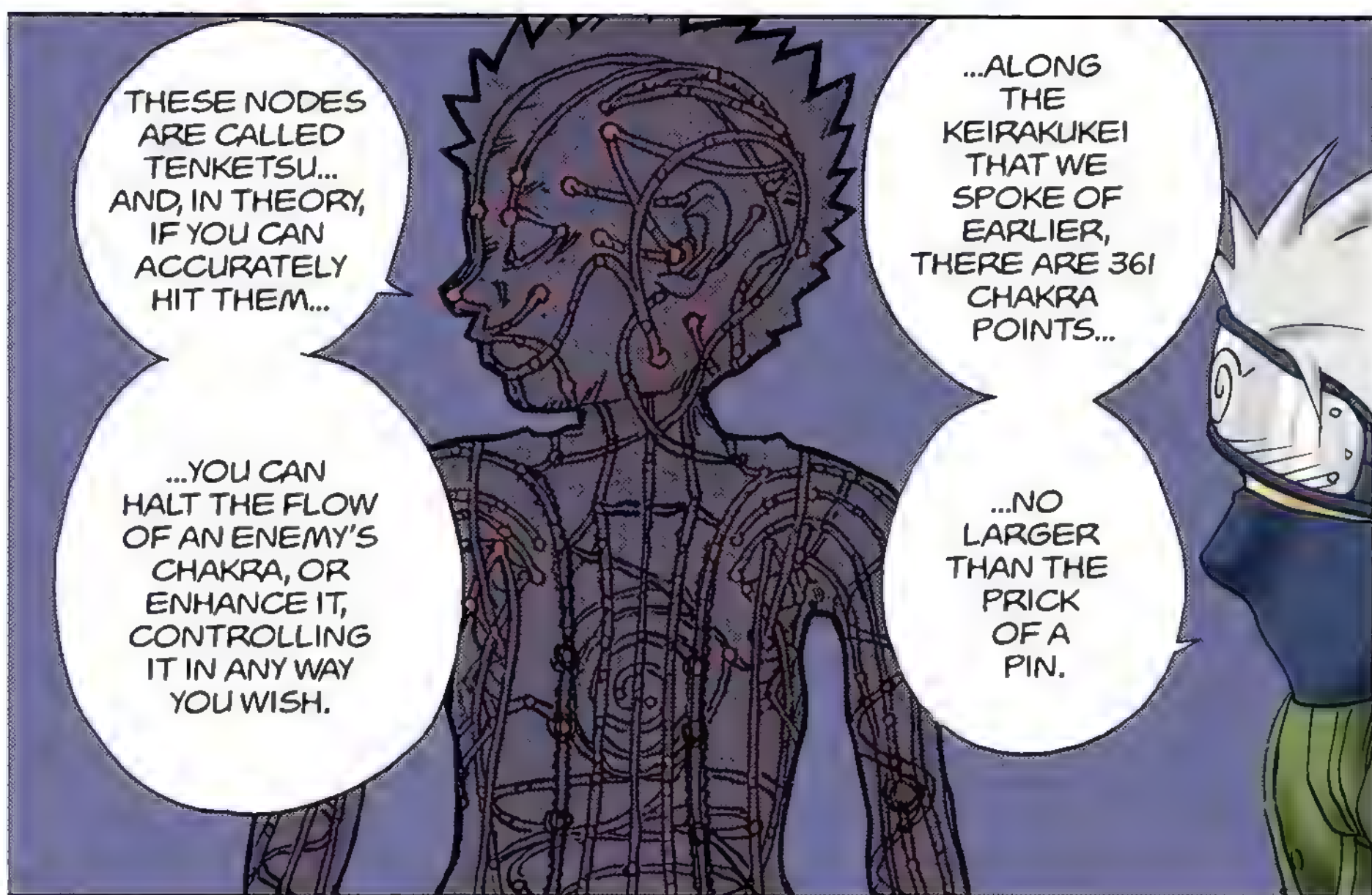
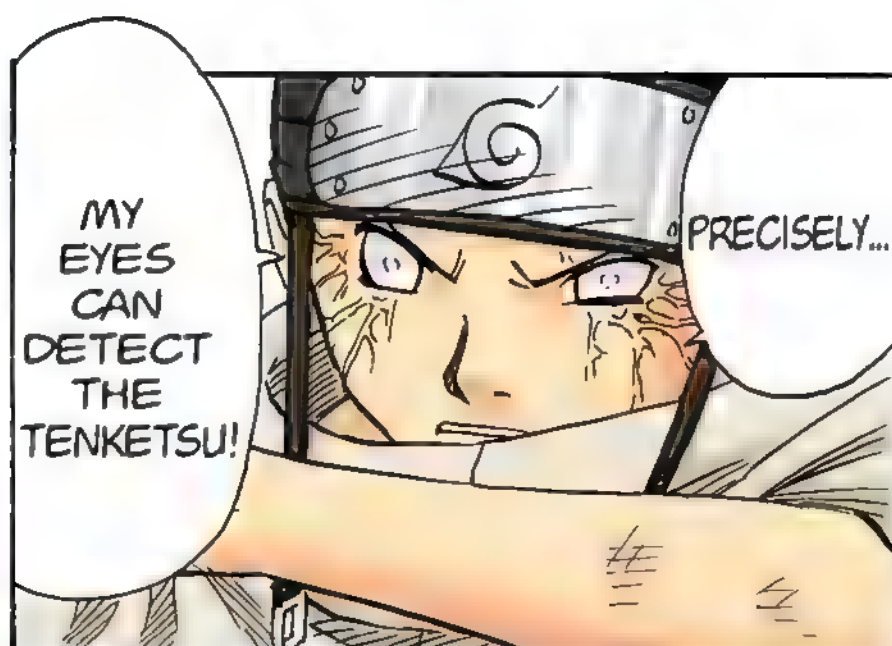
D...DON'T TELL ME...

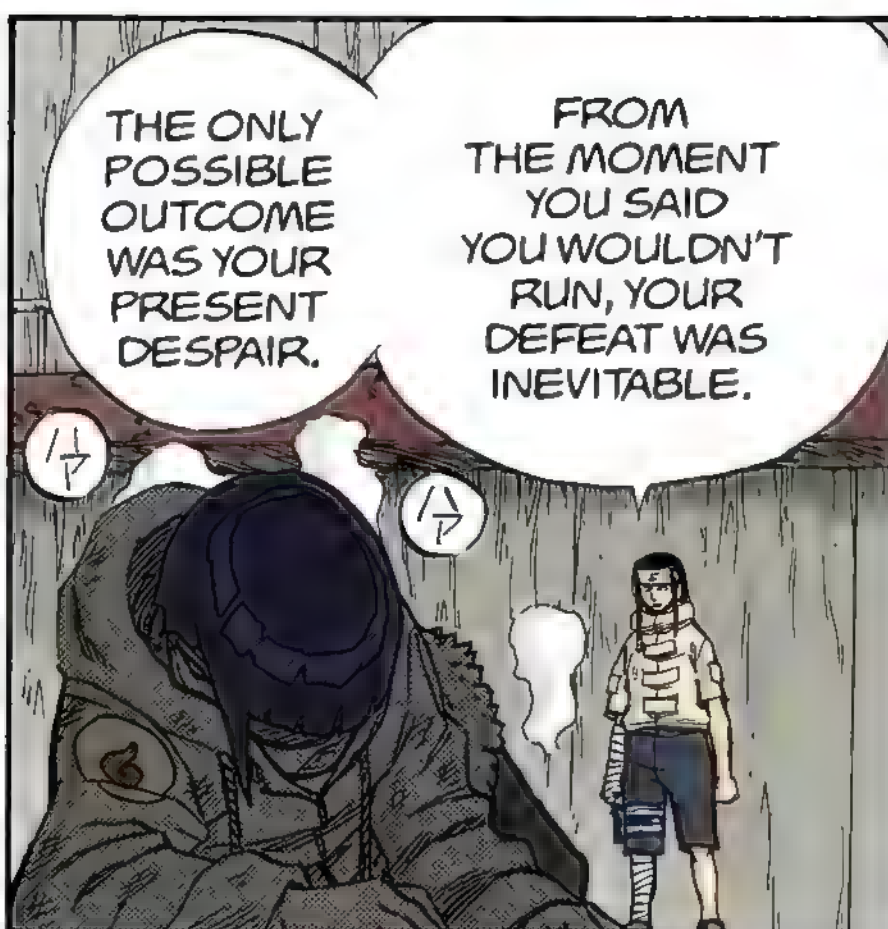
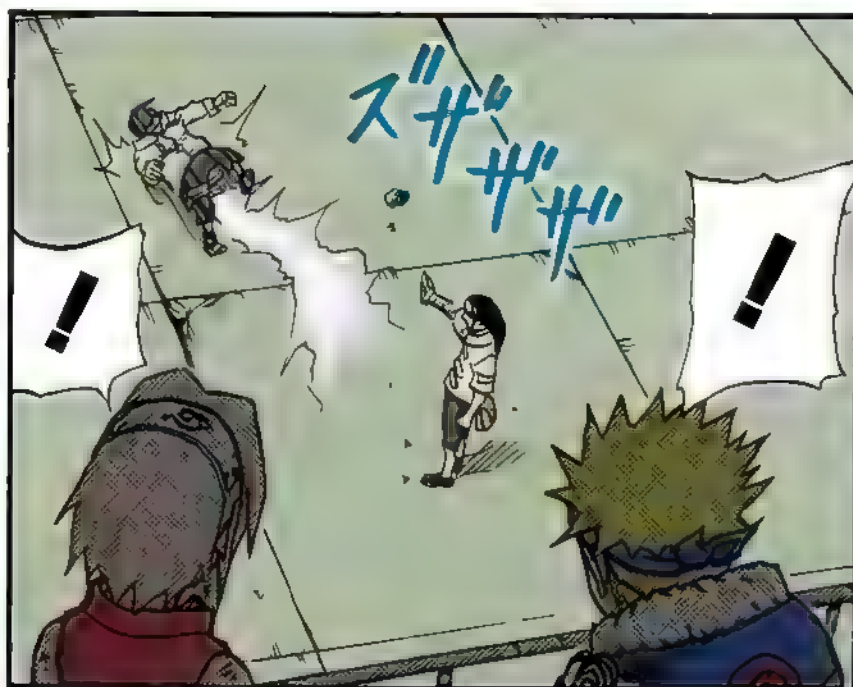
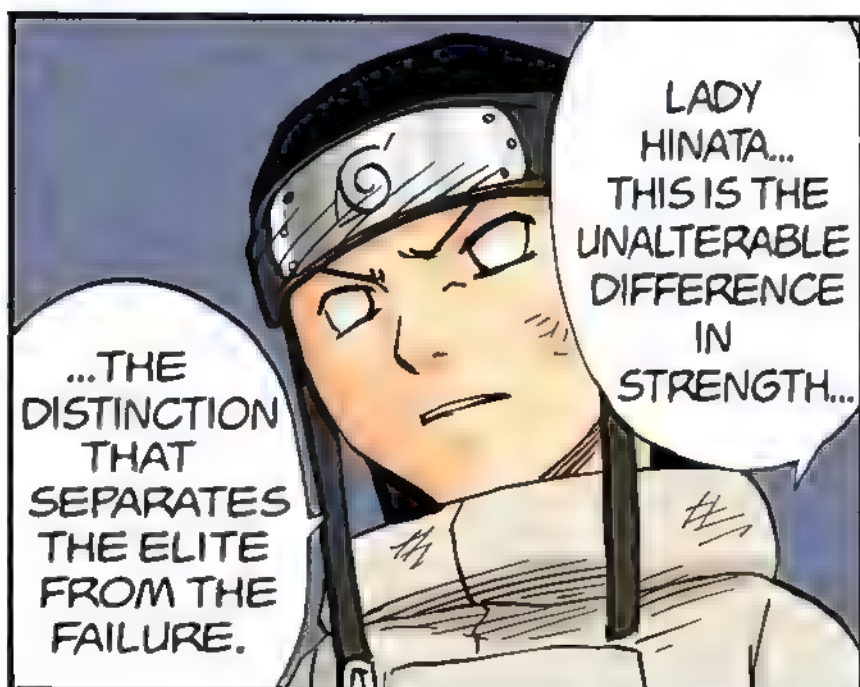


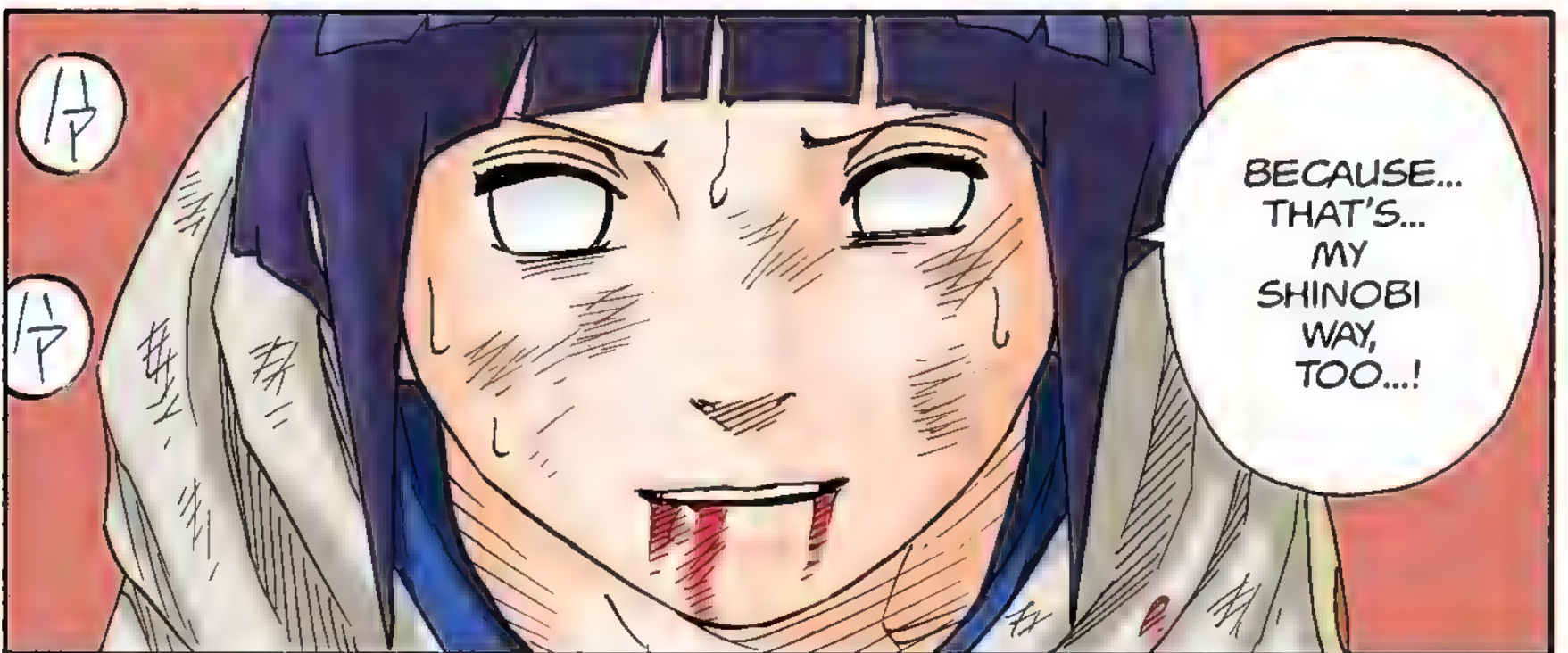
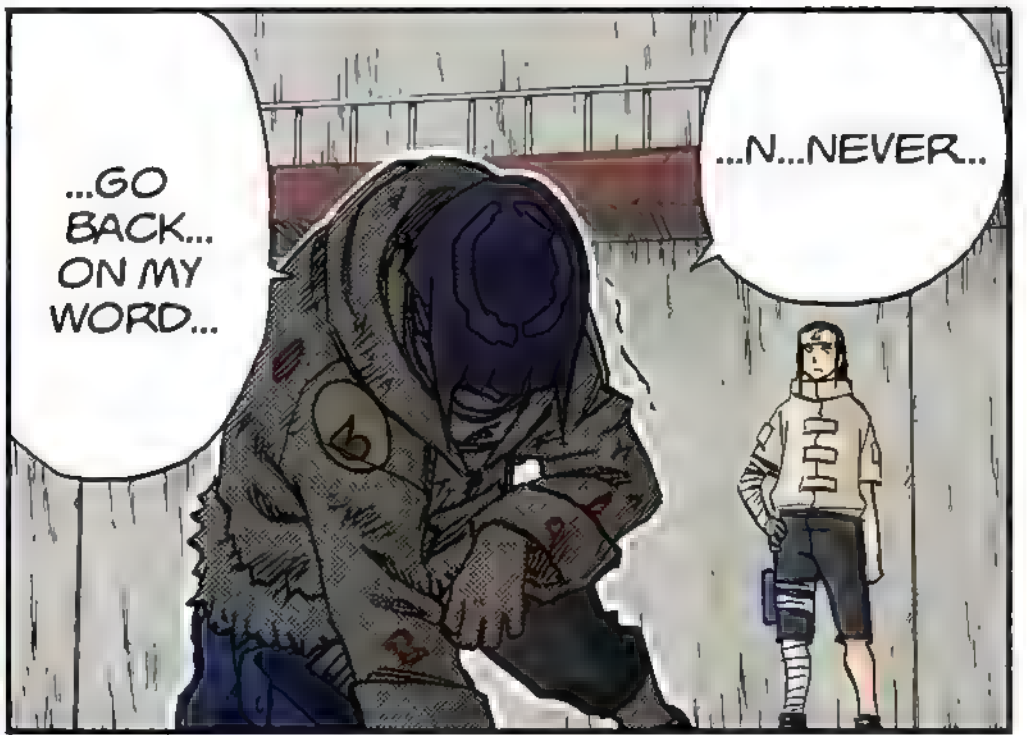
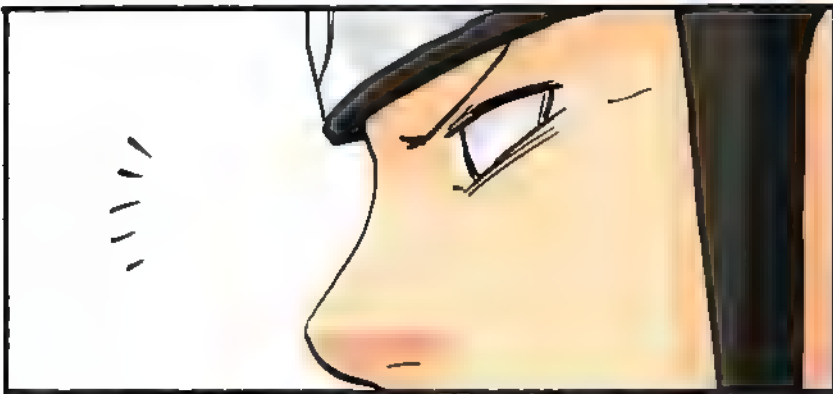
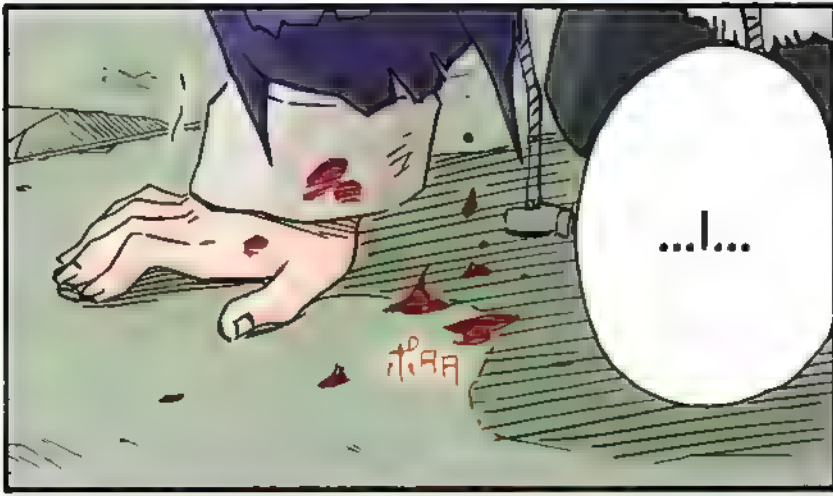
...WHAT A FIGHTER!

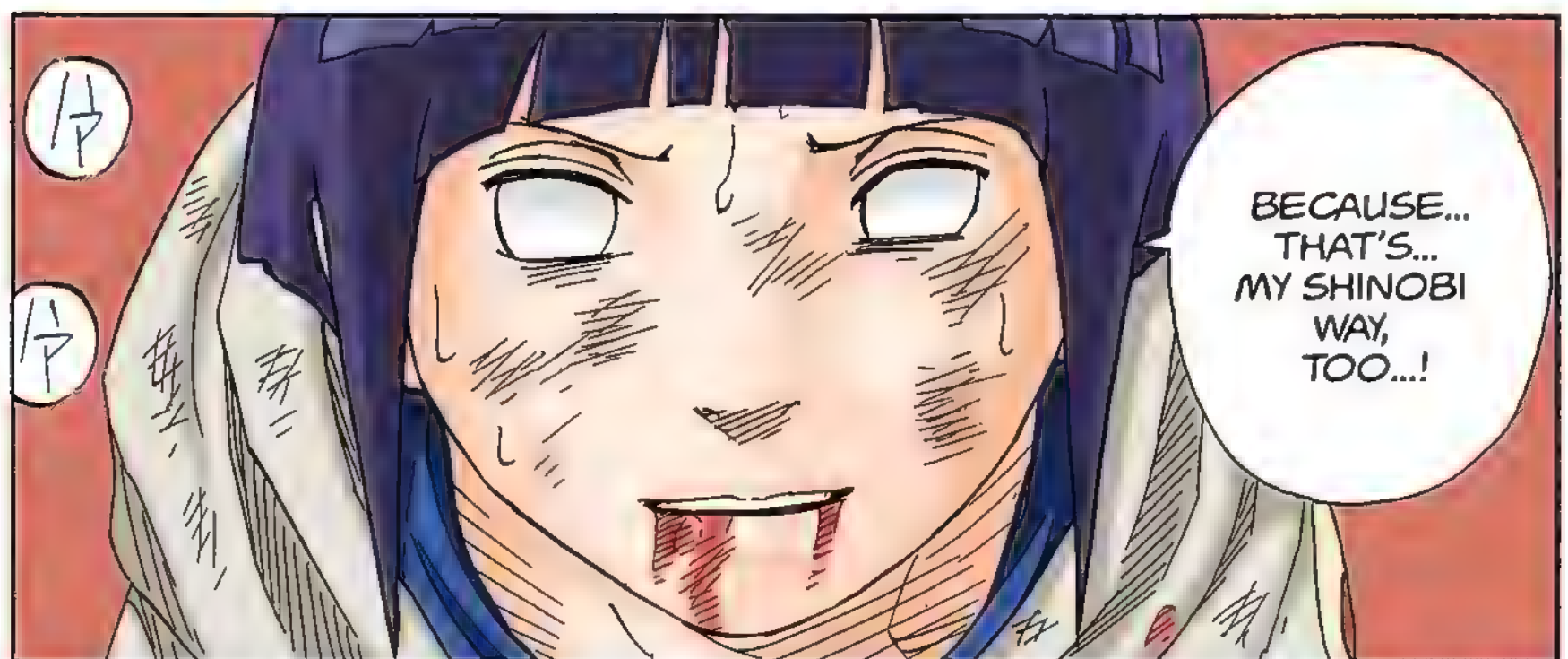
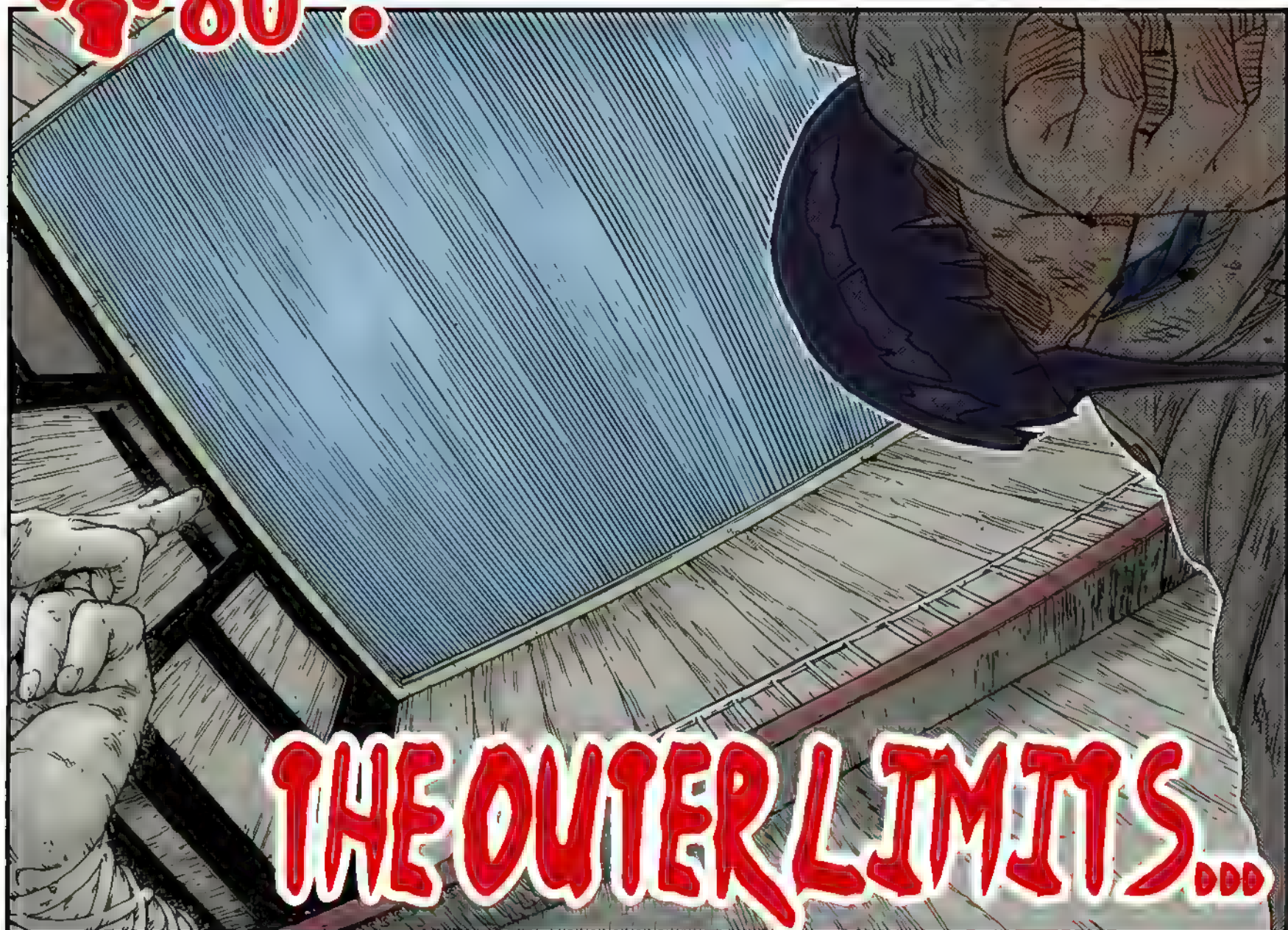


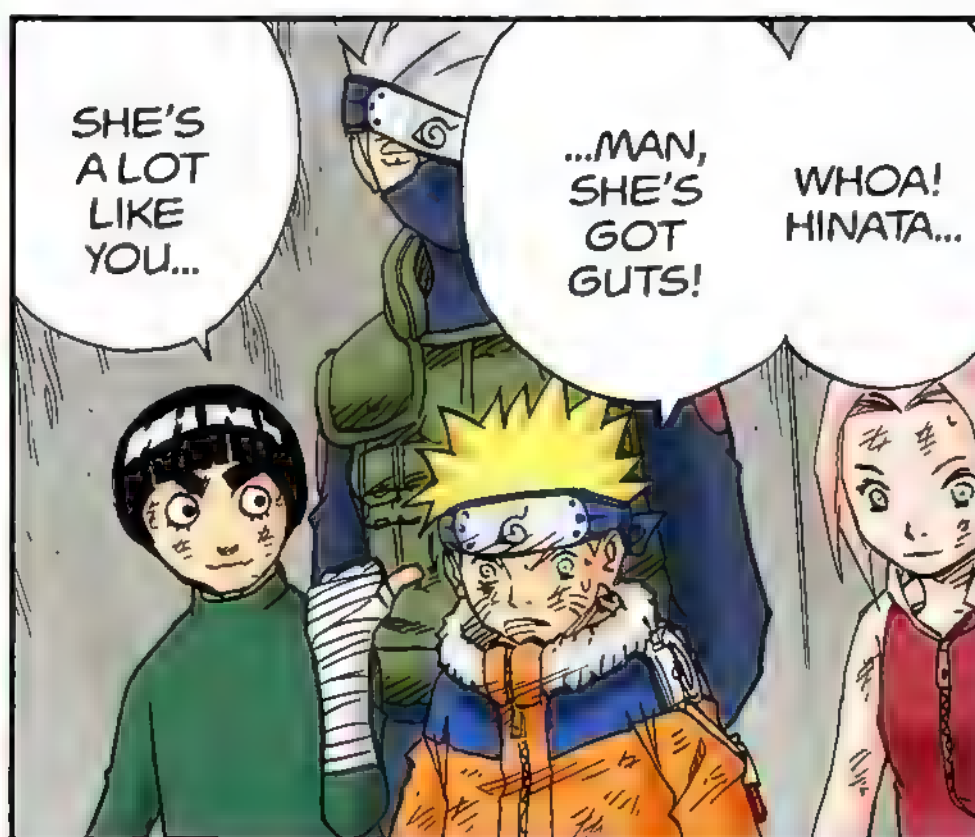
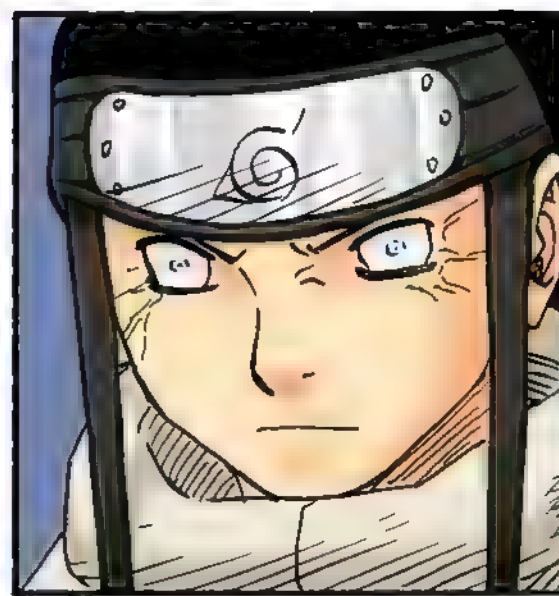
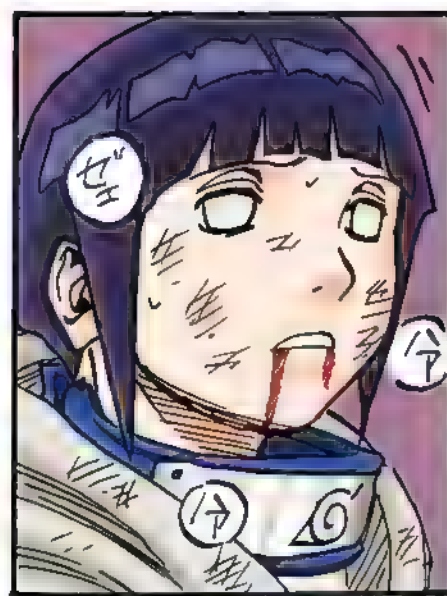
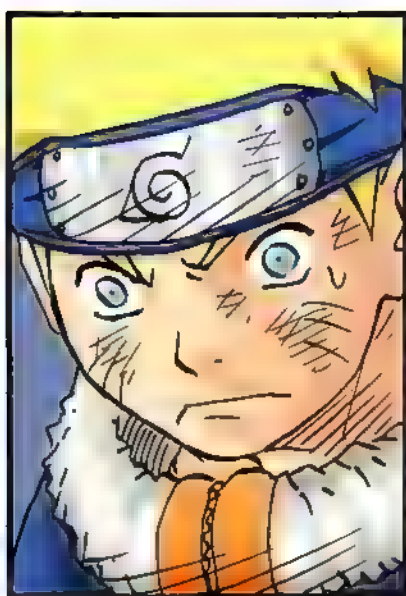
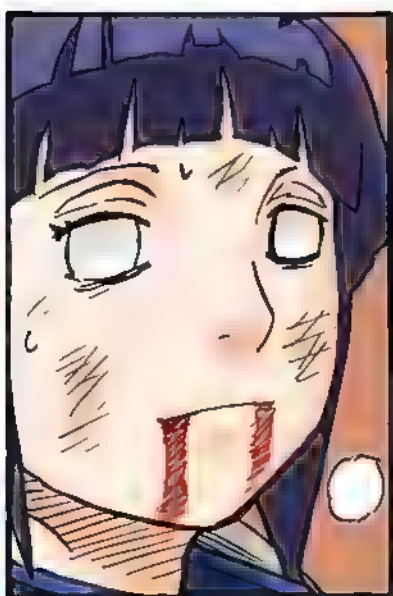
YOU MEAN... FROM THE VERY BEGINNING...? ...IT CAN'T BE!

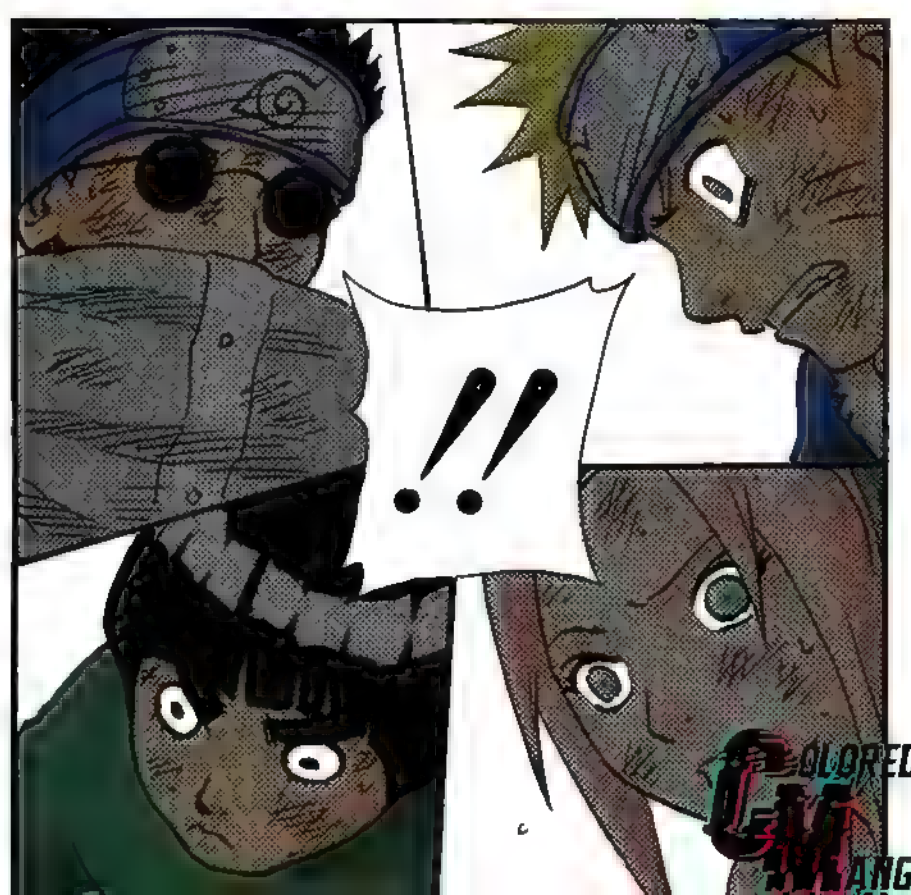
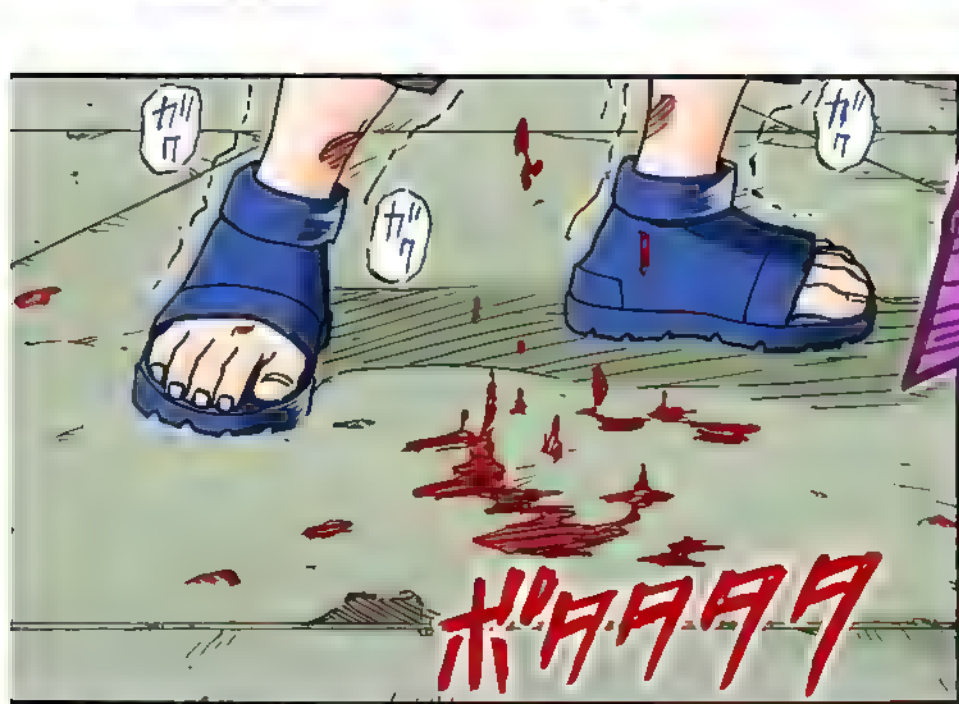
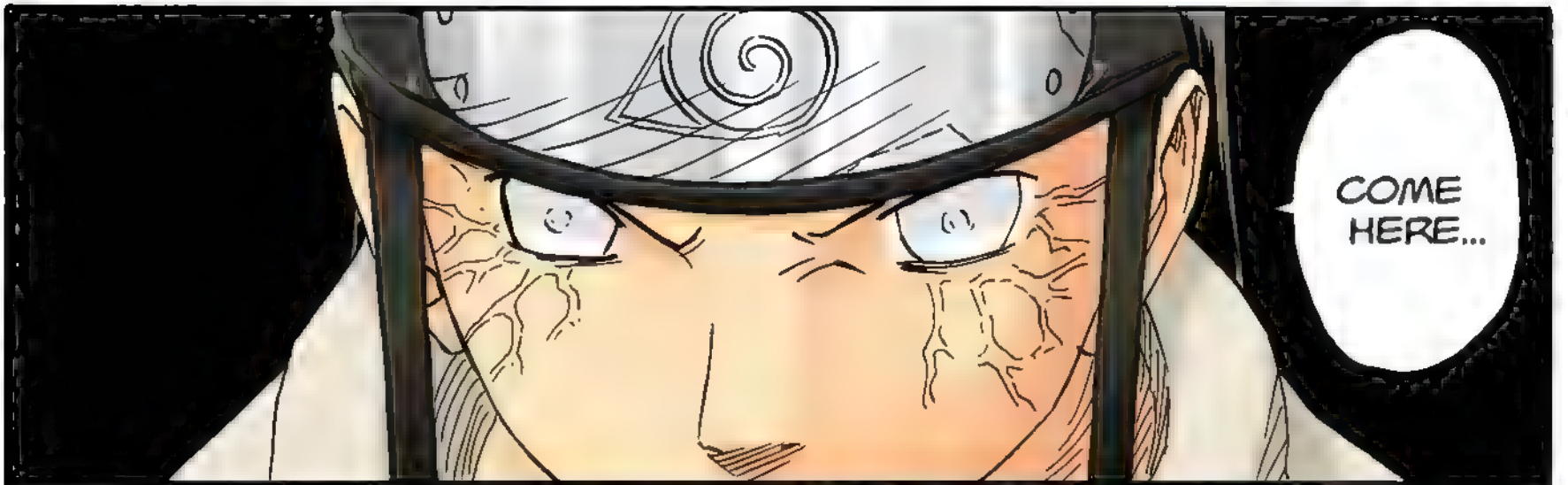
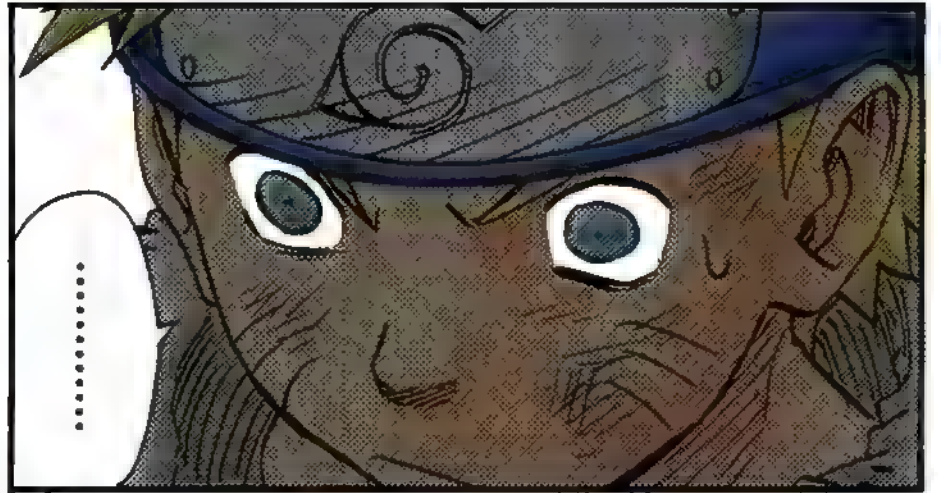
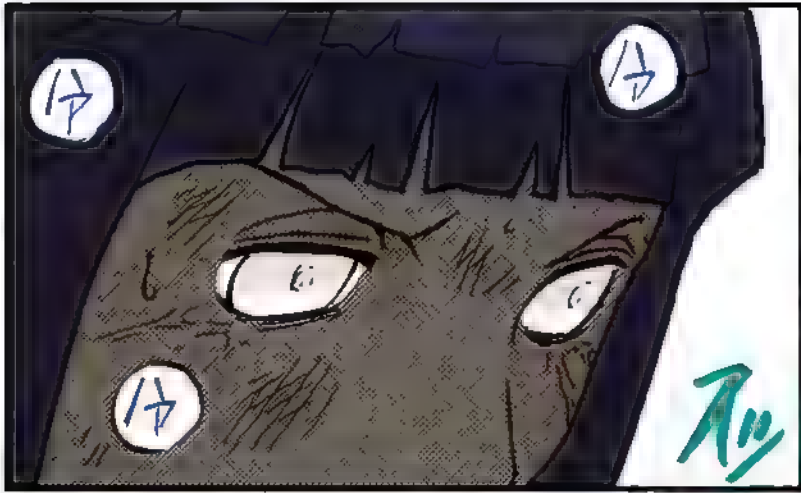


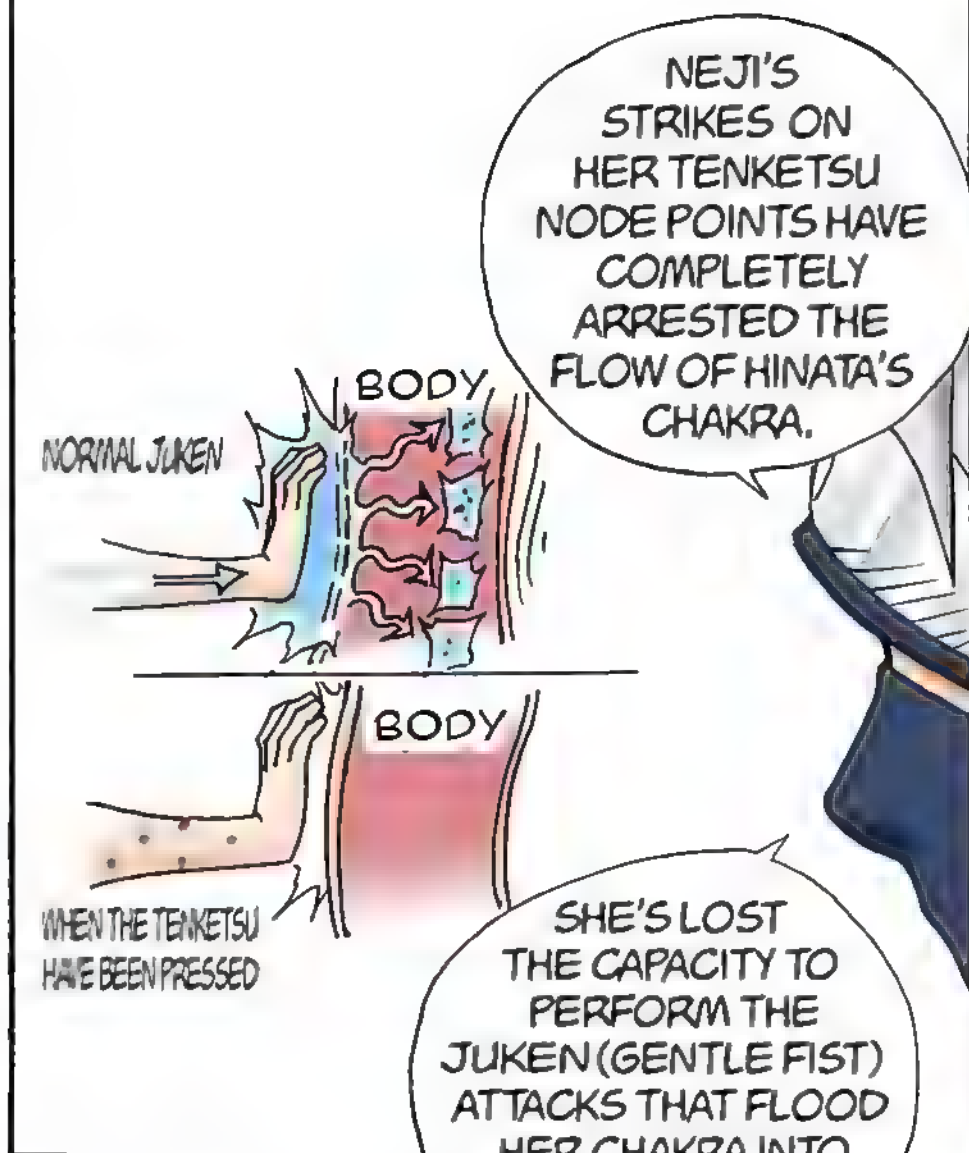




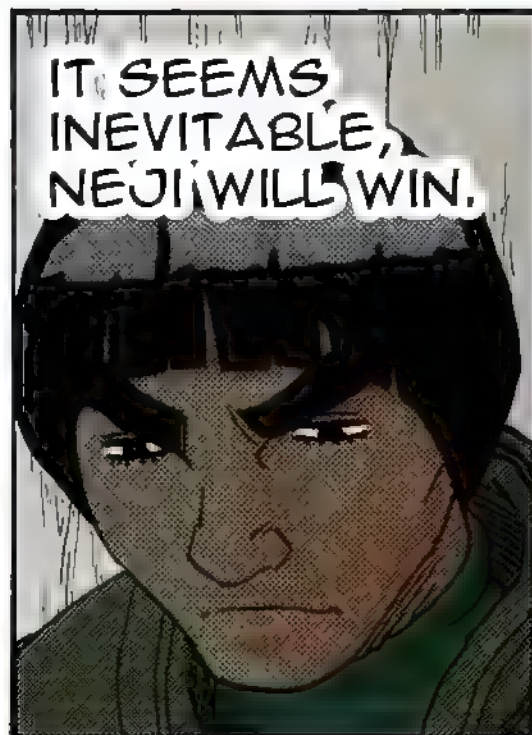
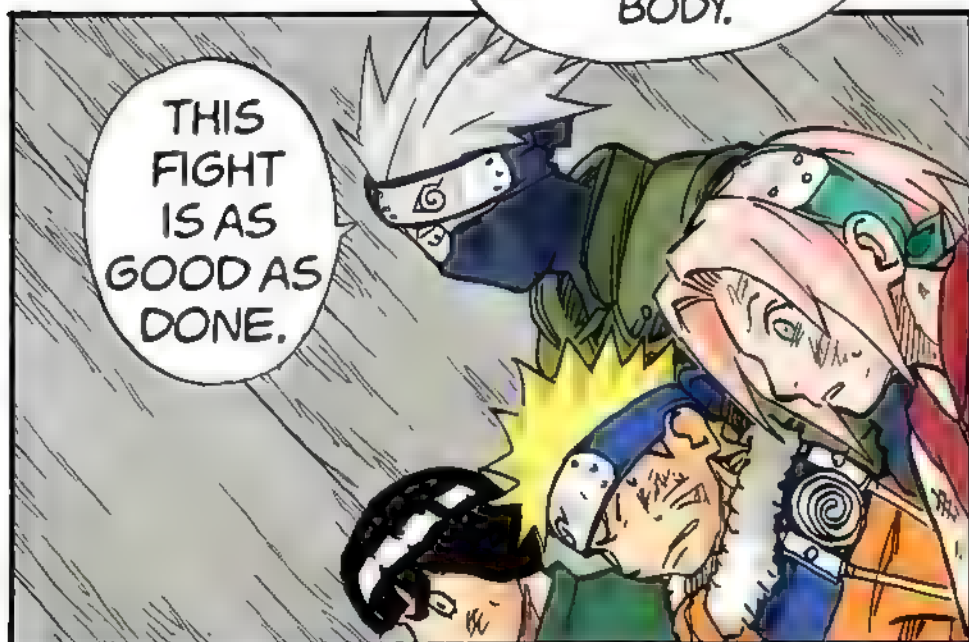








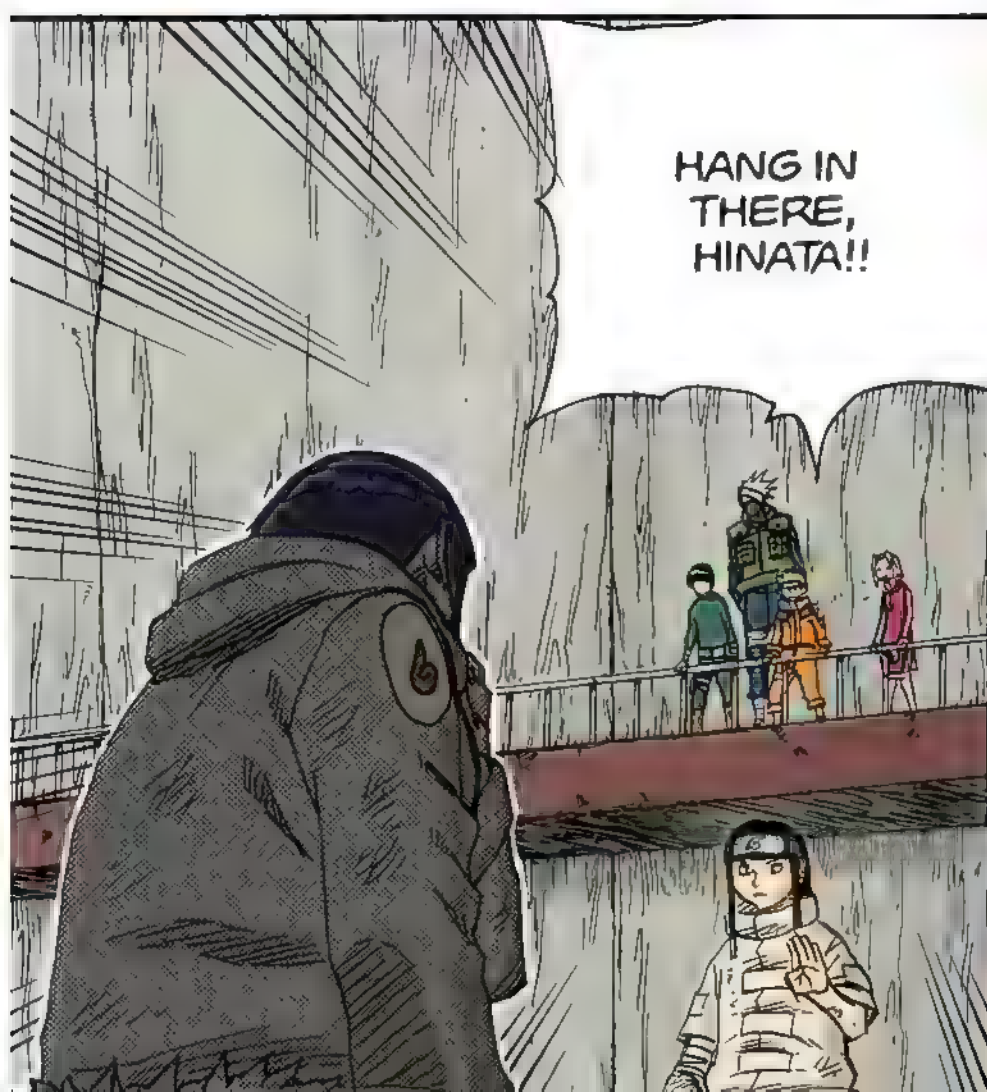
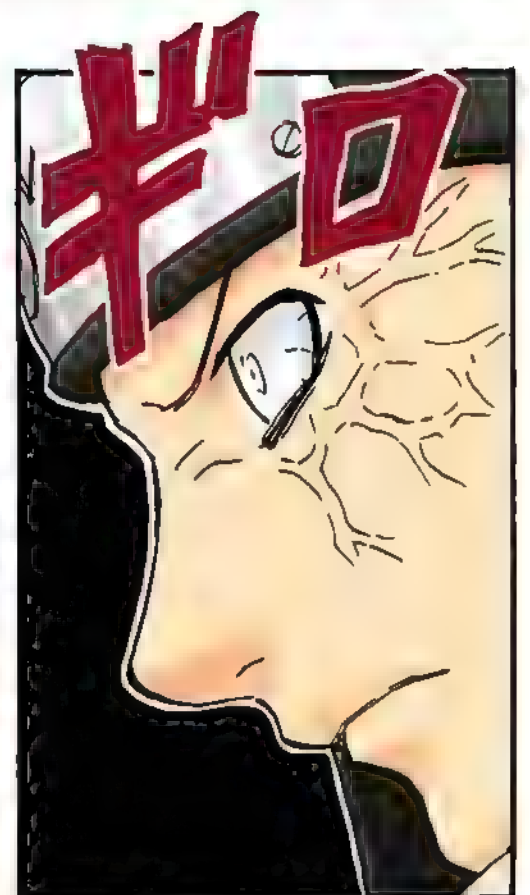
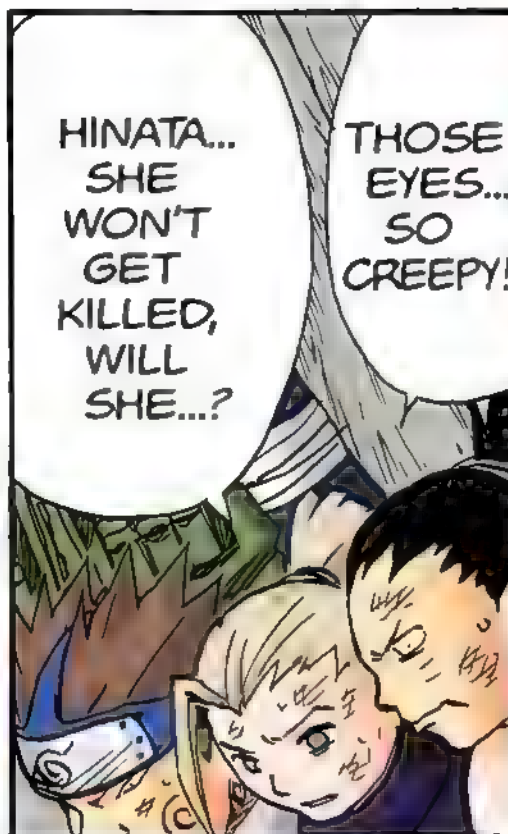
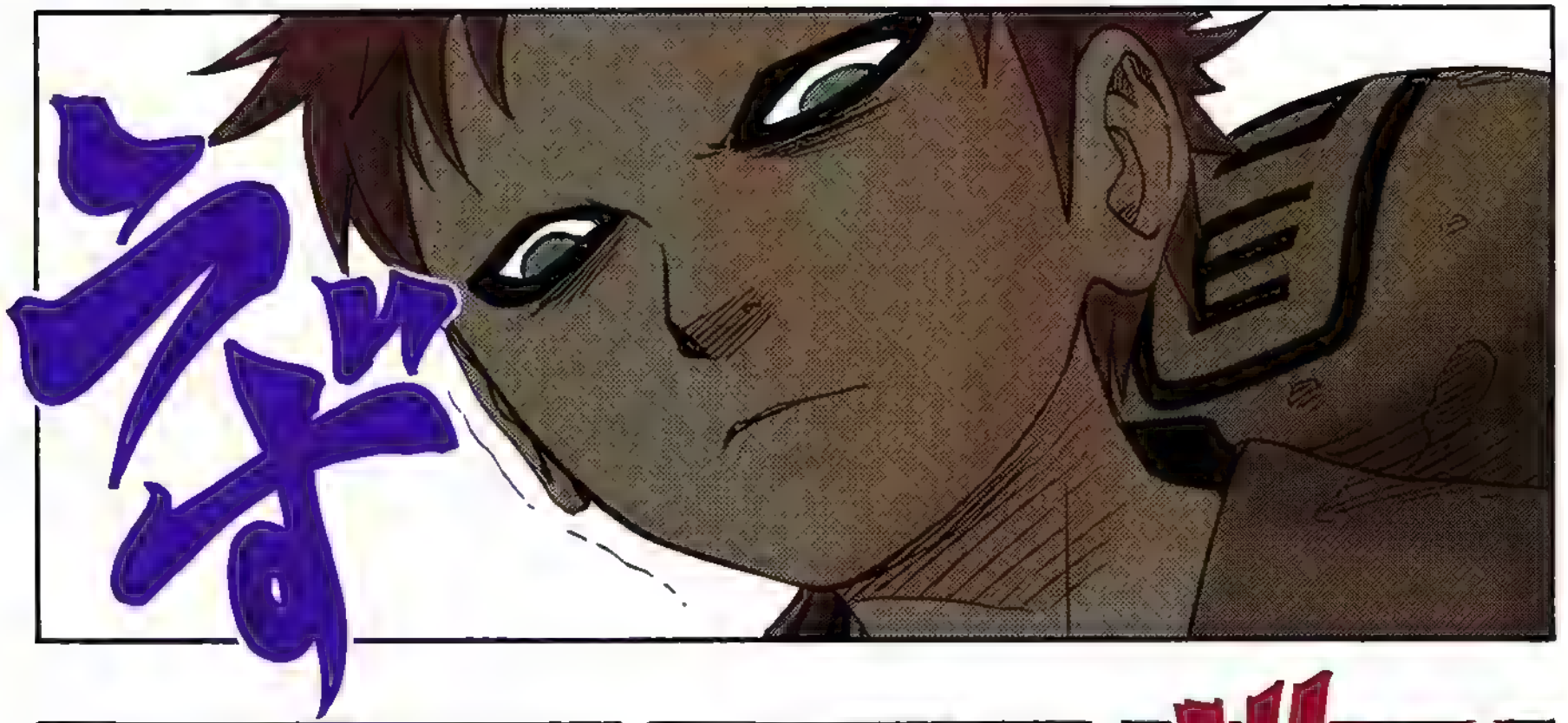
SHE'S LOST THE CAPACITY TO PERFORM THE JUKEN (GENTLE FIST) ATTACKS THAT FLOOD HER CHAKRA INTO HER OPPONENT'S BODY.

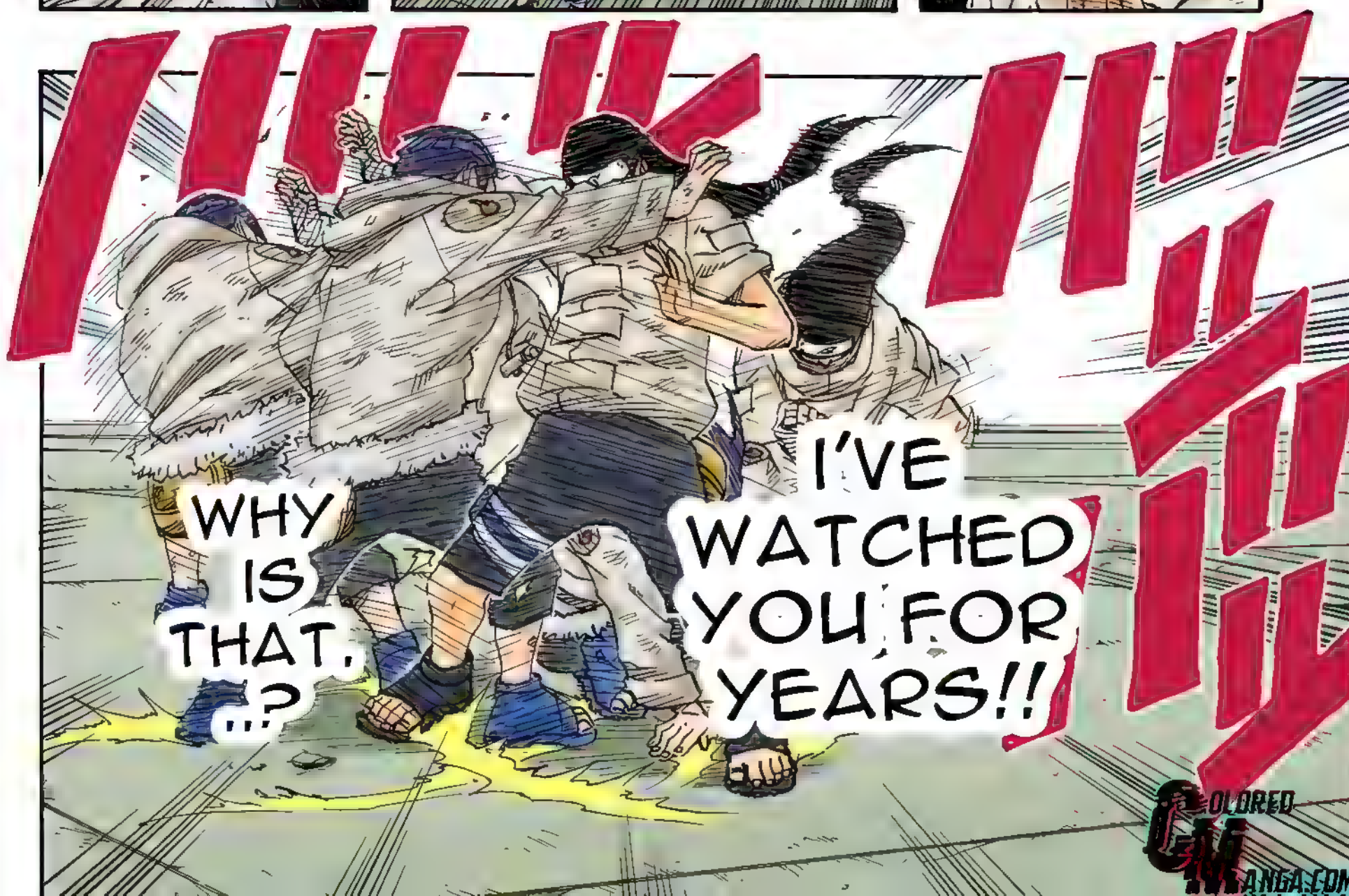
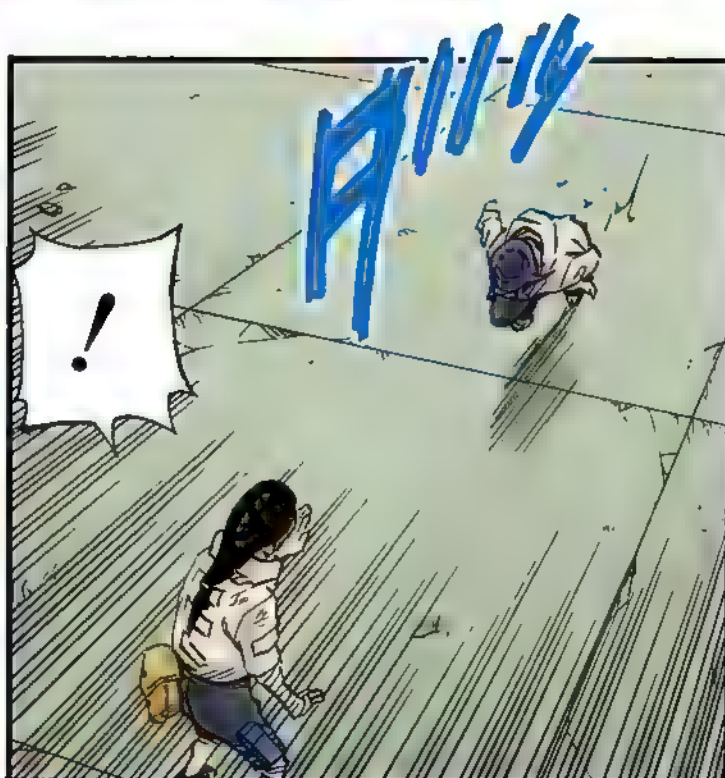


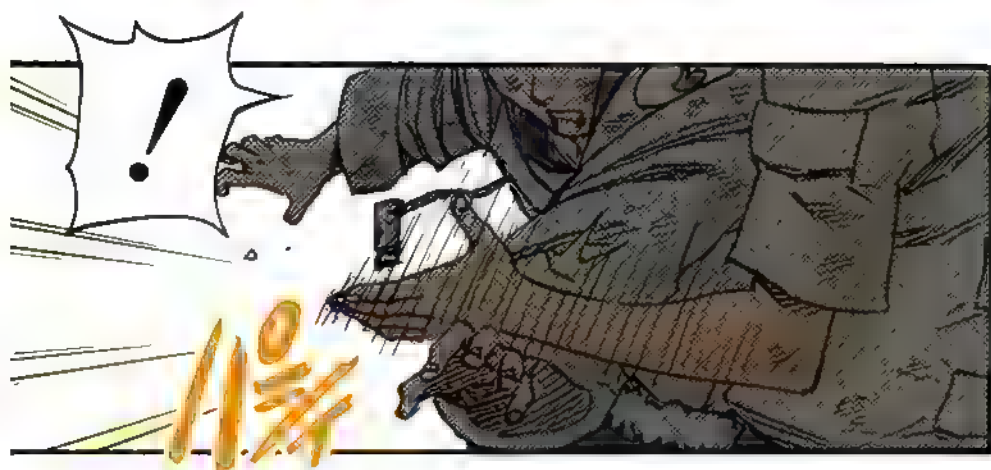
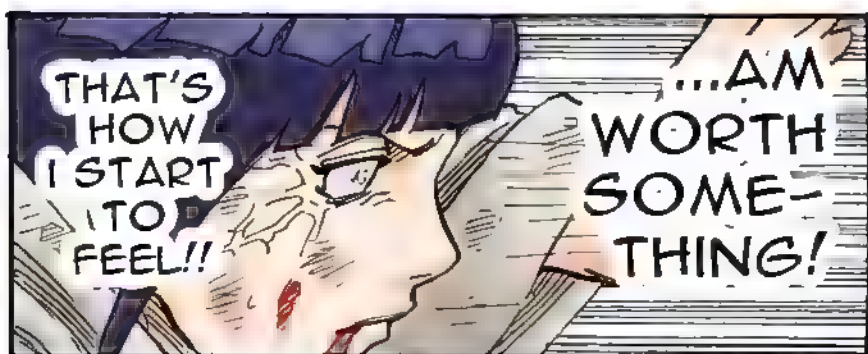
IT SEEMS INEVITABLE, NEJI WILL WIN.

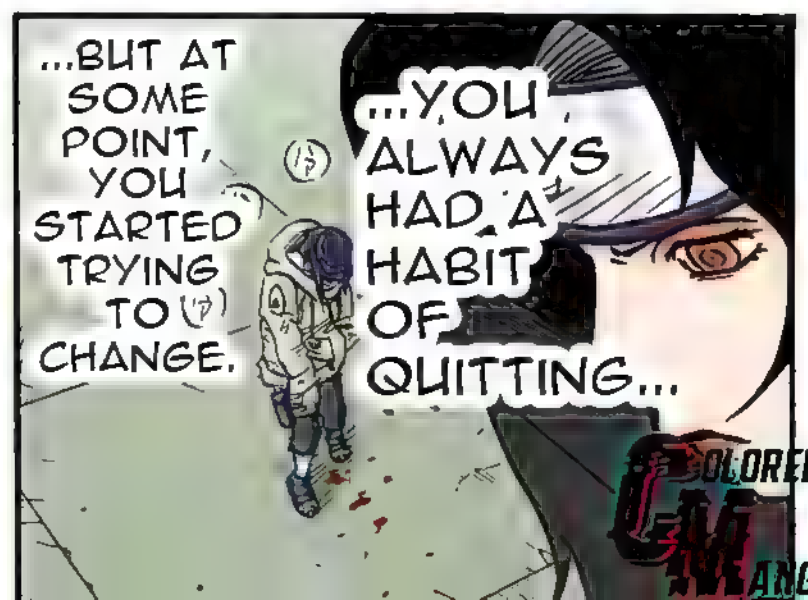
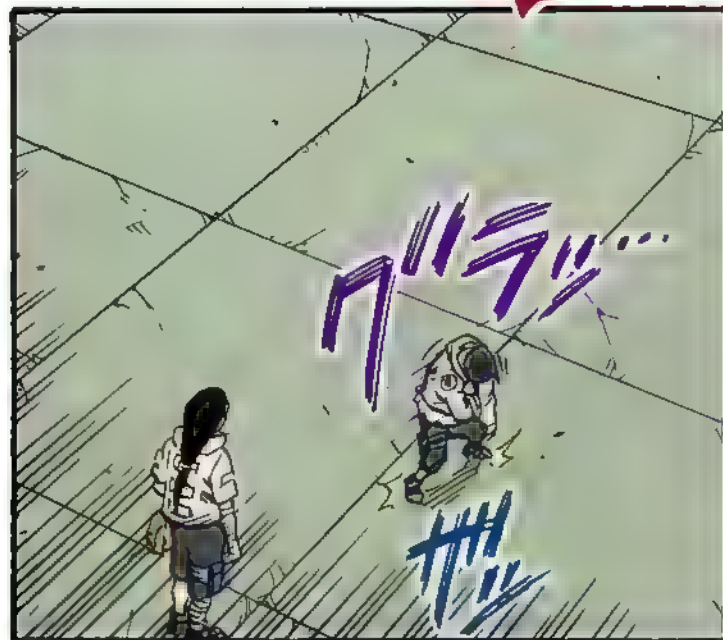
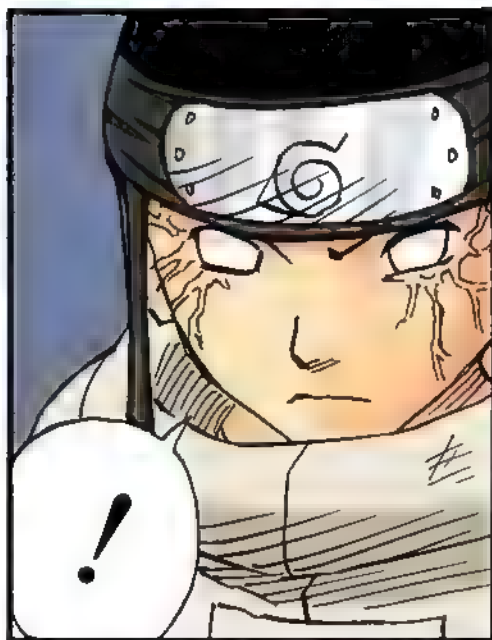


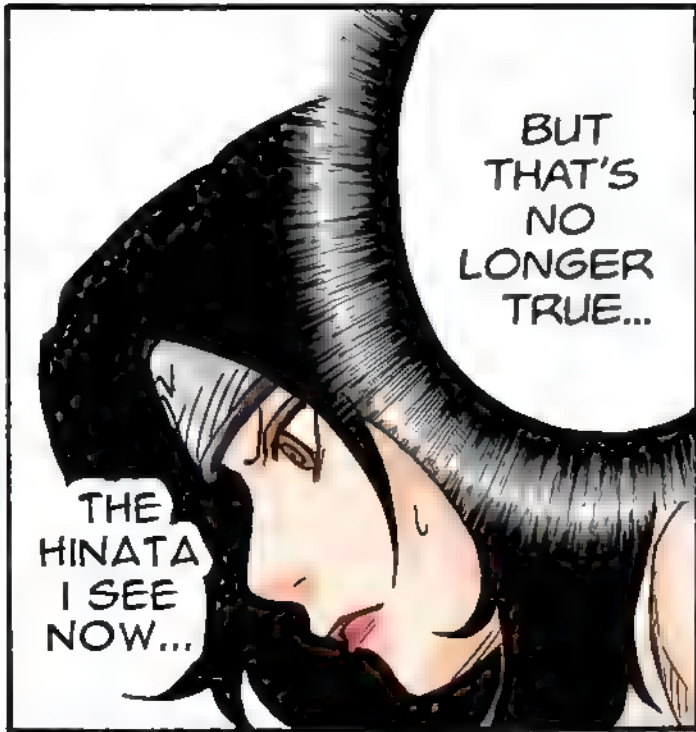
BUT, I DOUBT THAT, AGAINST A FIGHTER LIKE THIS NEJI, EVEN OUR OWN SASUKE WOULD PREVAIL.











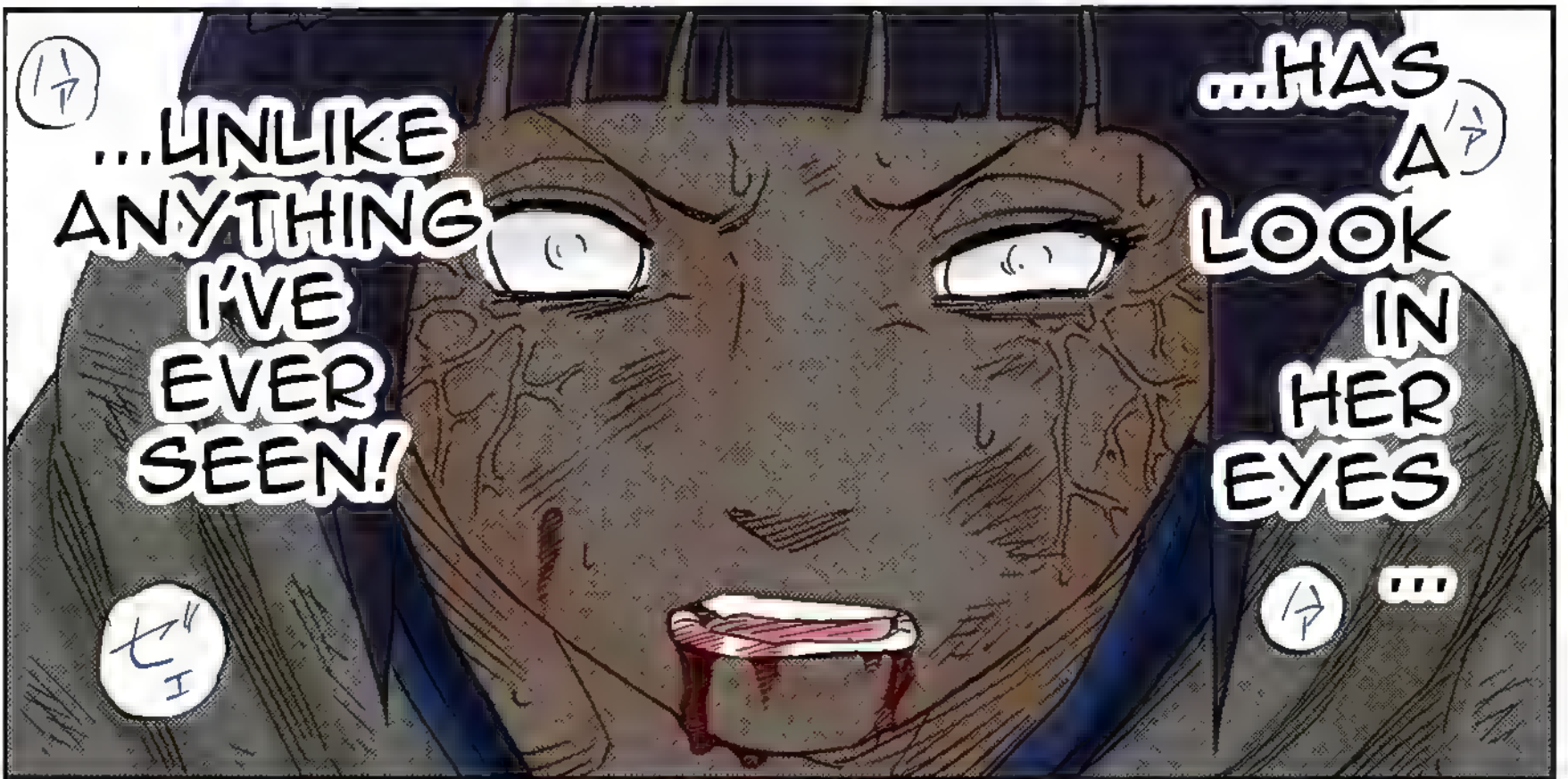
BUT
THAT'S
NO
LONGER
TRUE...

THE
HINATA
I SEE
NOW...



YOU
FALTERED,
YOU WERE
WEAK,
AND YOU
NEVER
HAD
FAITH IN
YOURSELF.

BUT, ON
MISSIONS
YOU WERE
ALWAYS
FULL OF
MISTAKES.



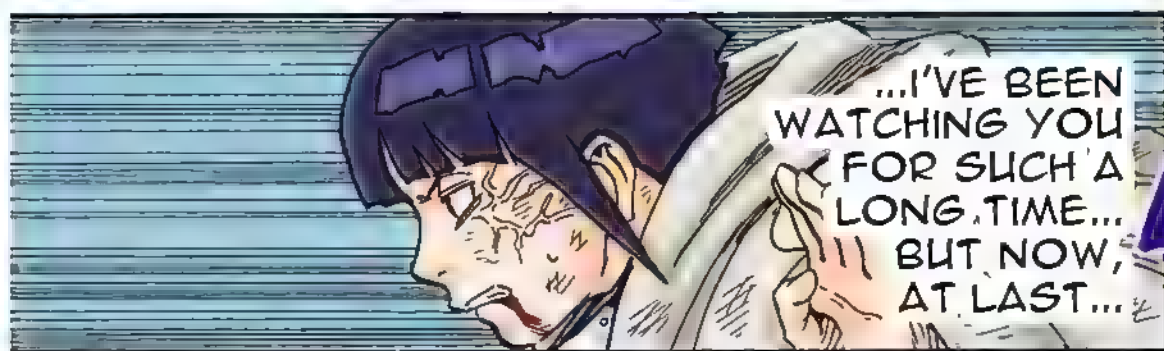
①
...UNLIKE
ANYTHING
I'VE
EVER
SEEN!

...HAS
A
LOOK
IN
HER
EYES
②

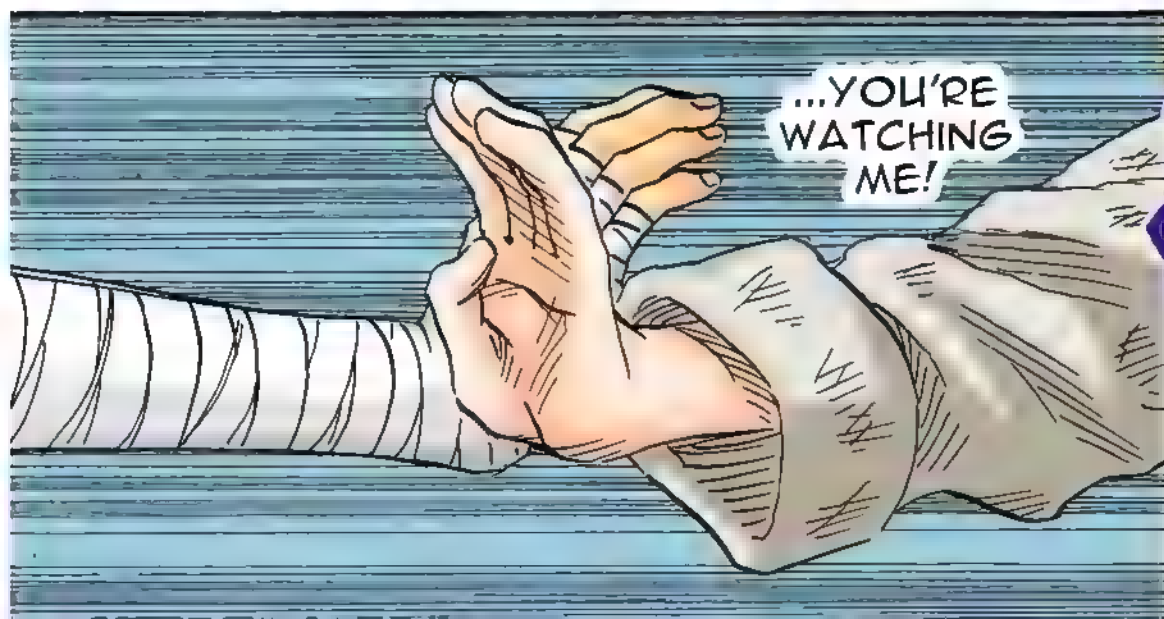
③
I

④

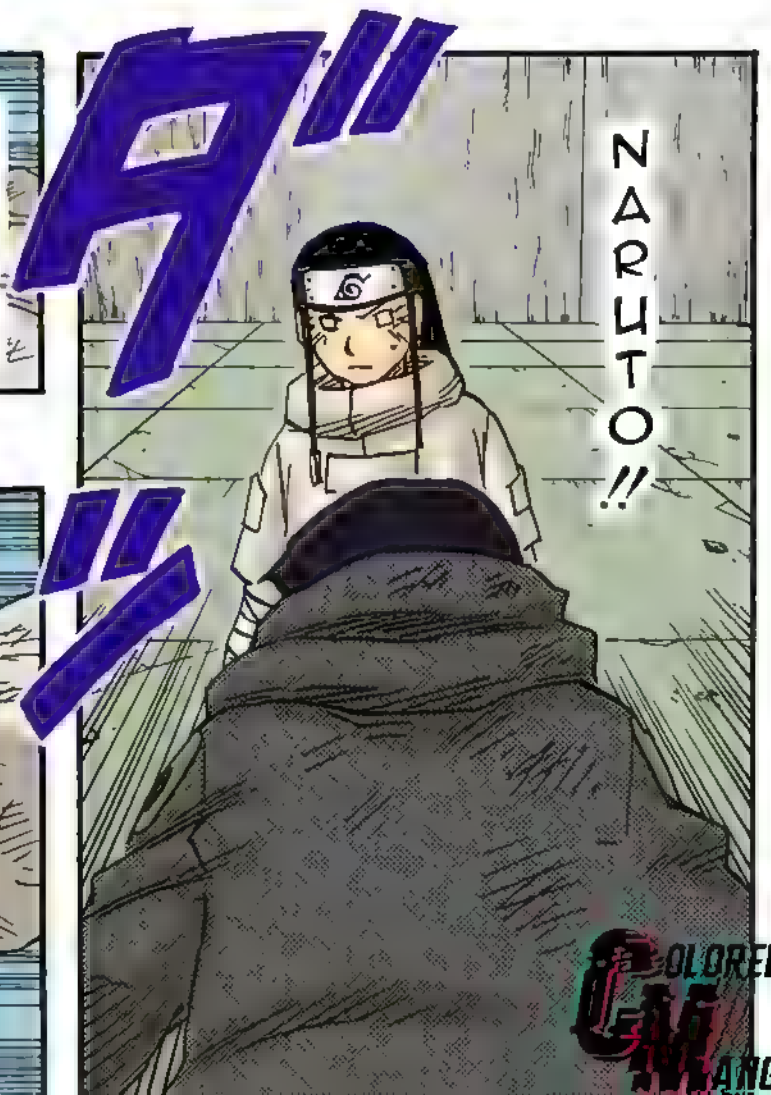
⑤



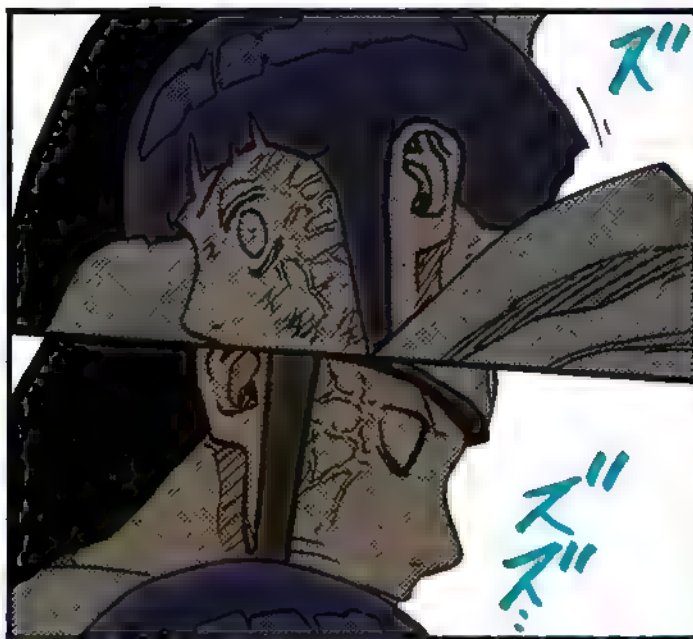
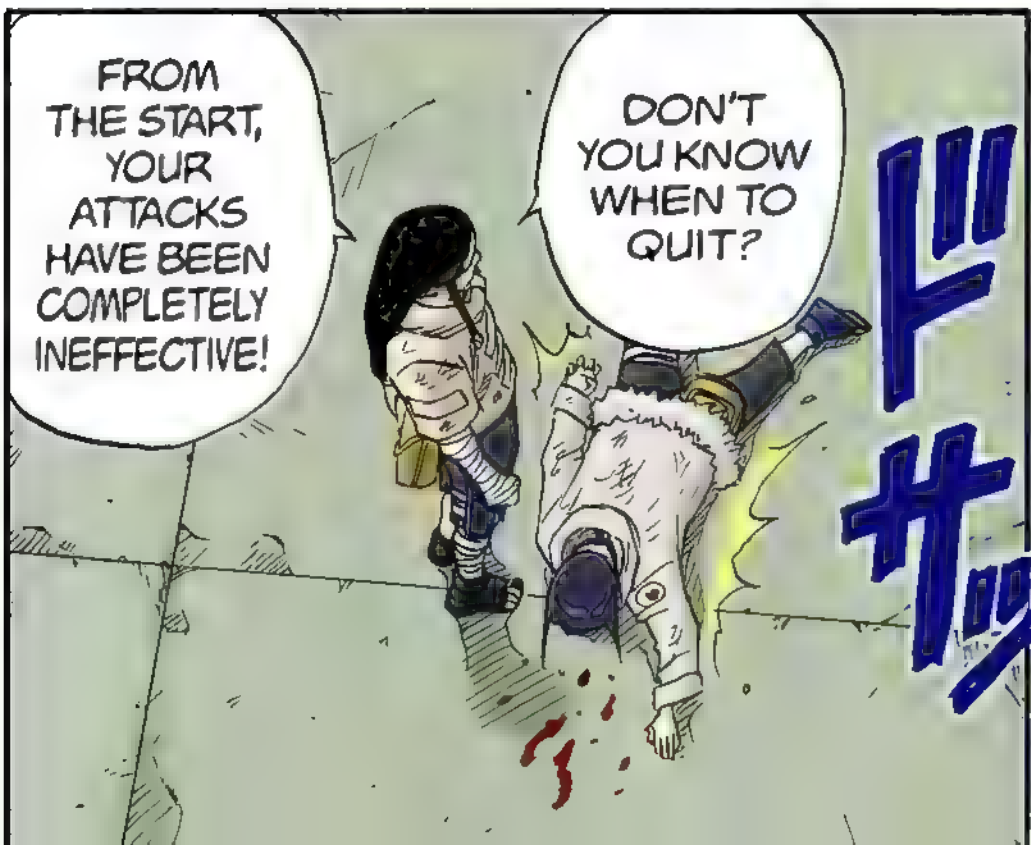
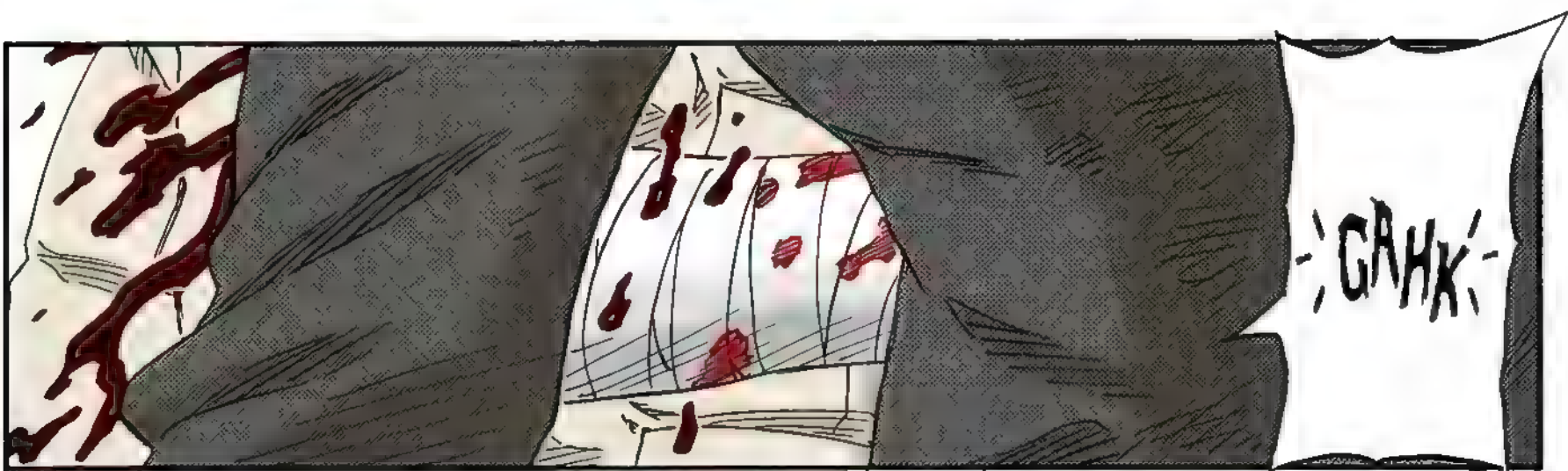
...I'VE BEEN
WATCHING YOU
FOR SUCH A
LONG TIME...
BUT NOW,
AT LAST...

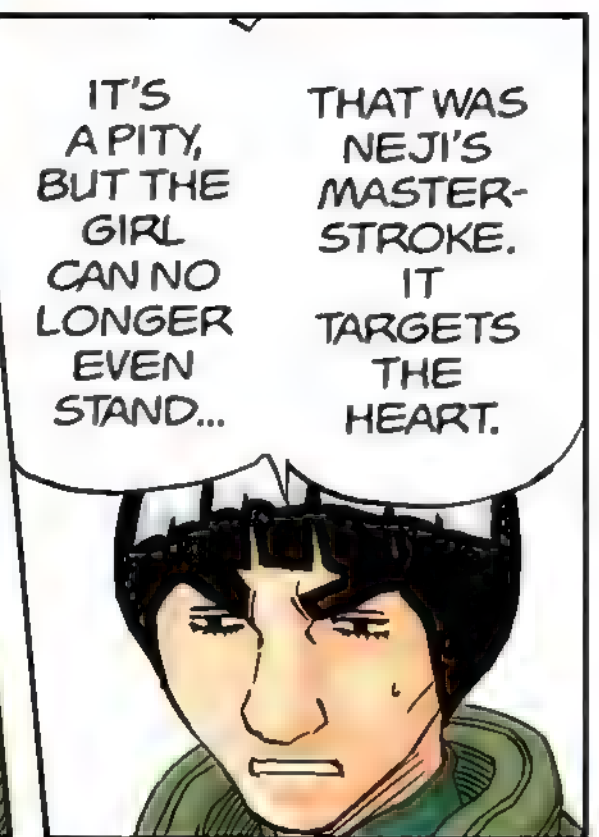
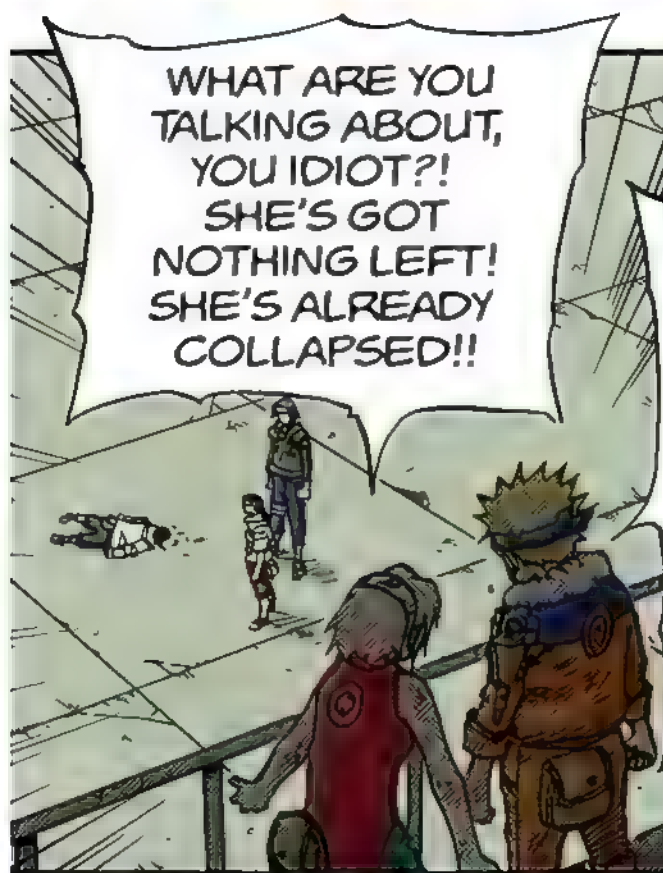
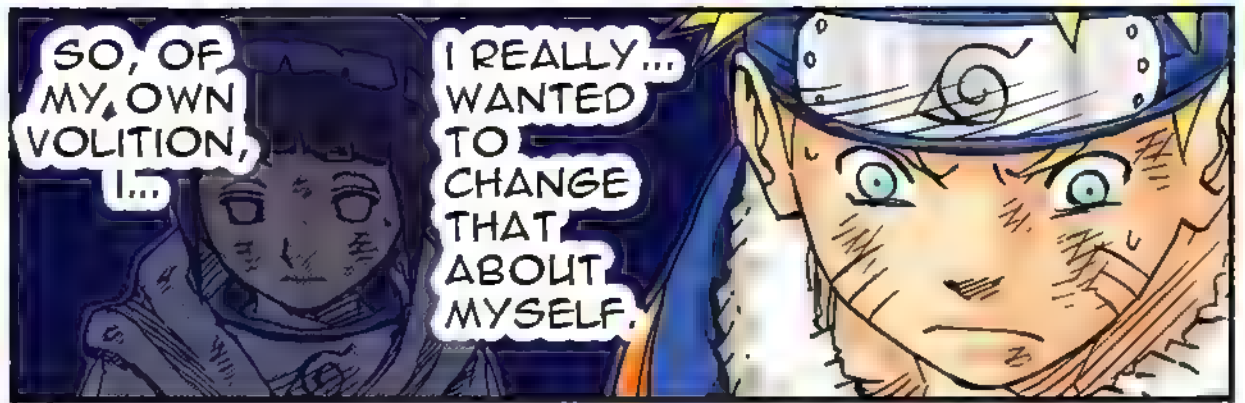
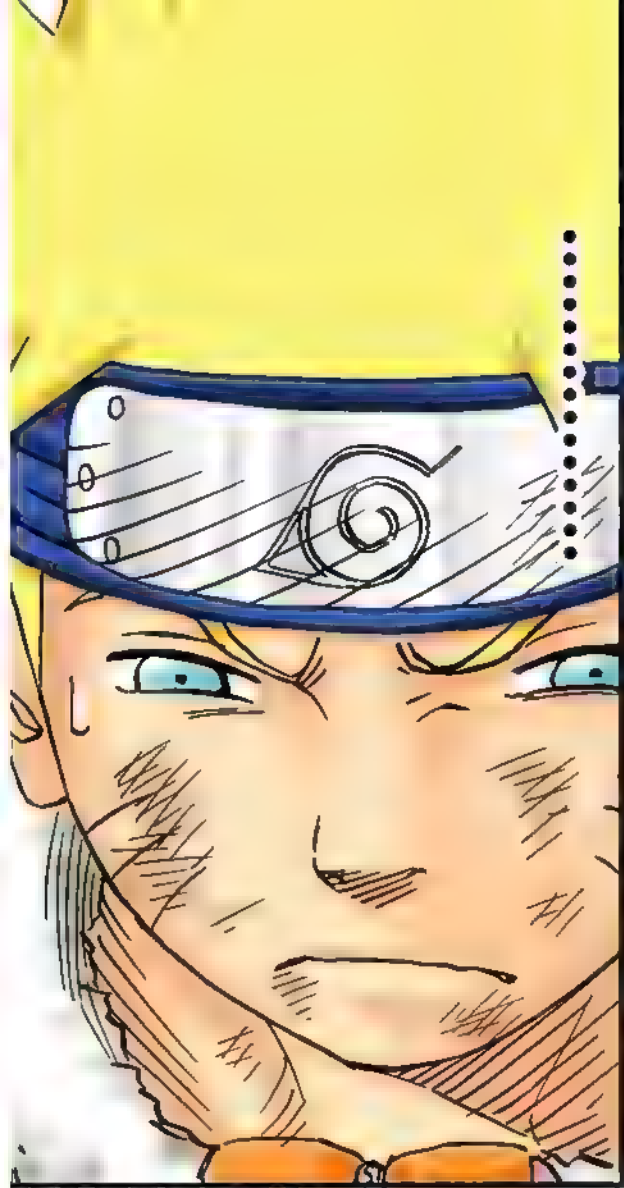


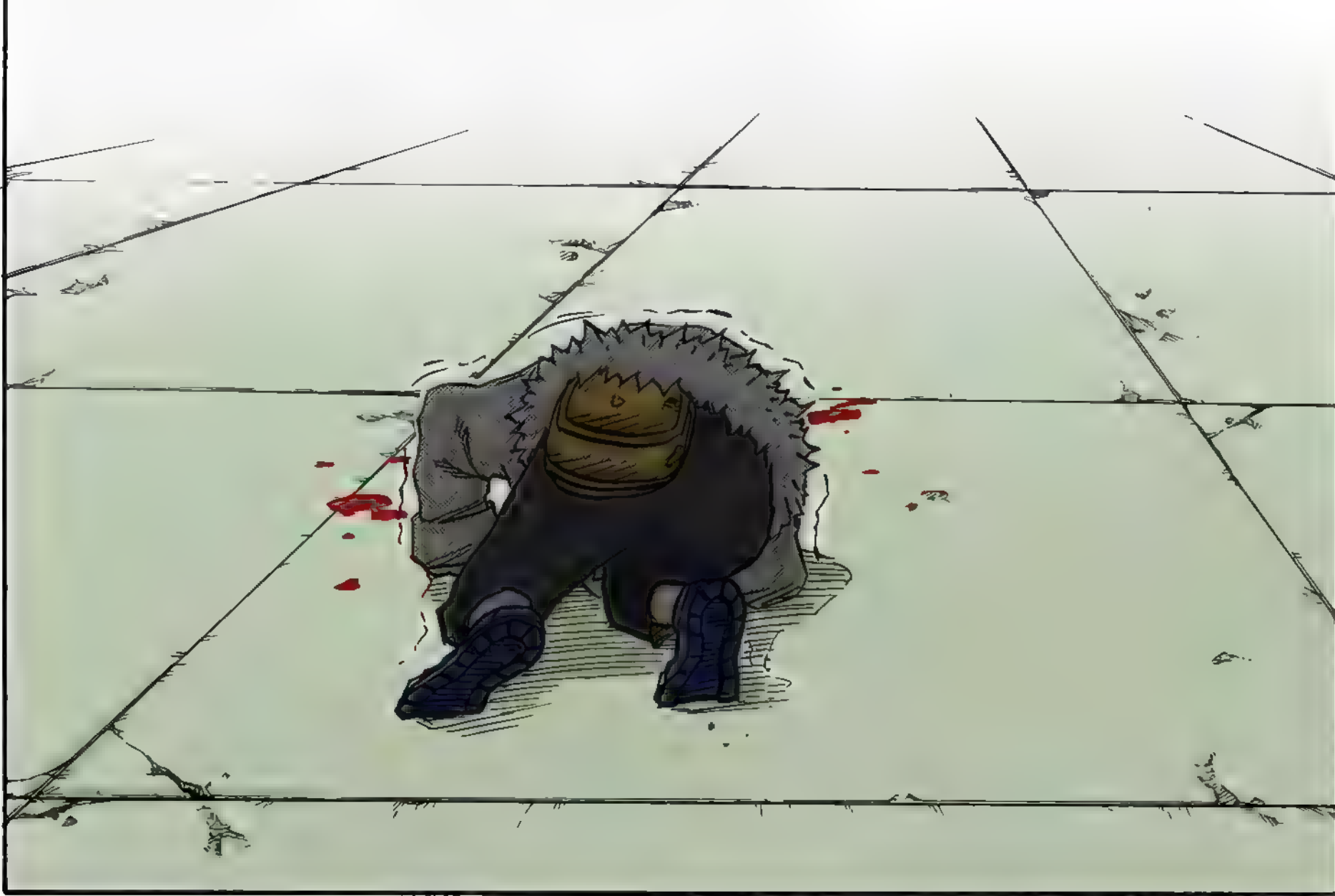
...YOU'RE
WATCHING
ME!

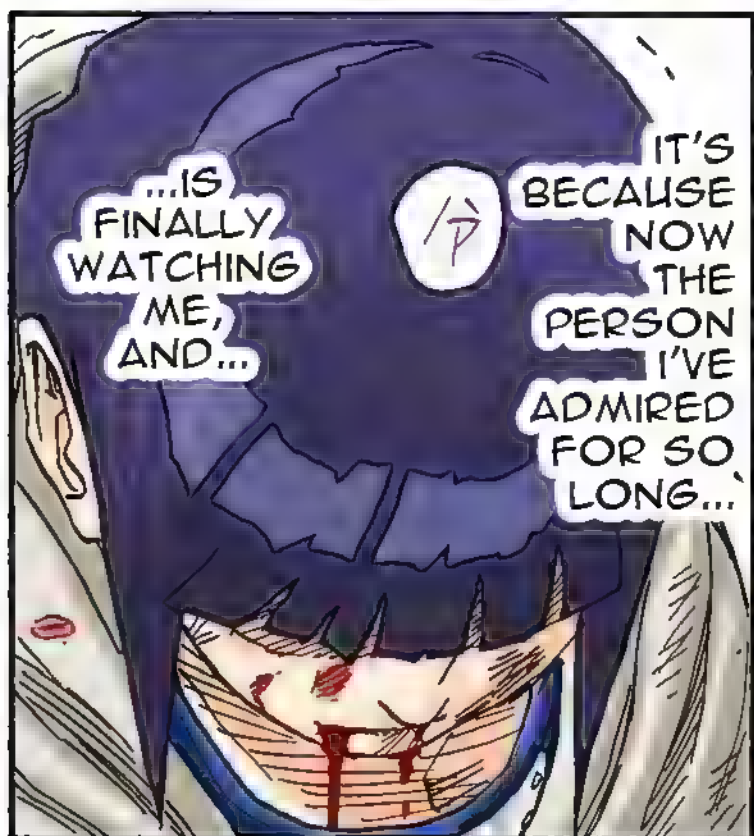
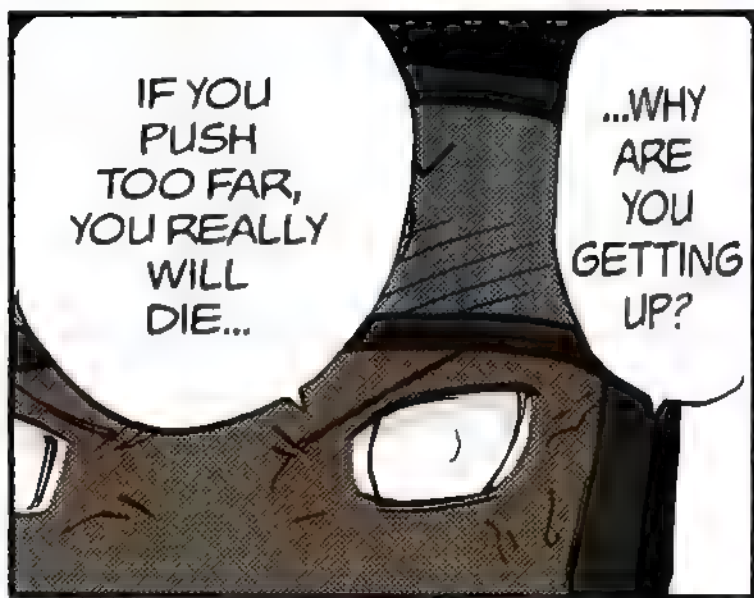


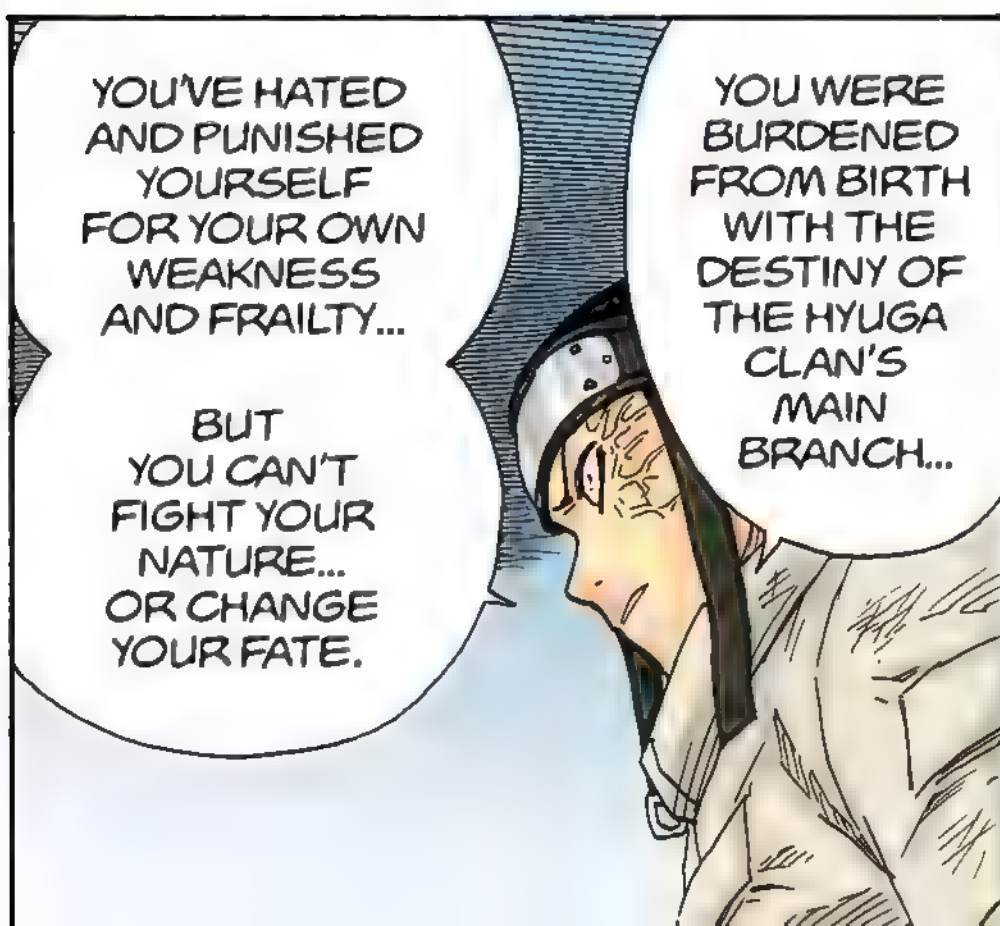
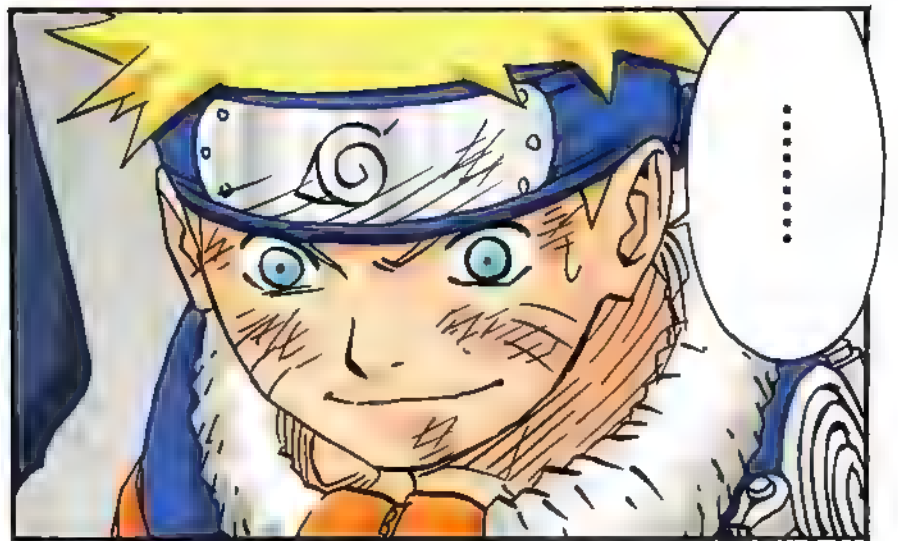
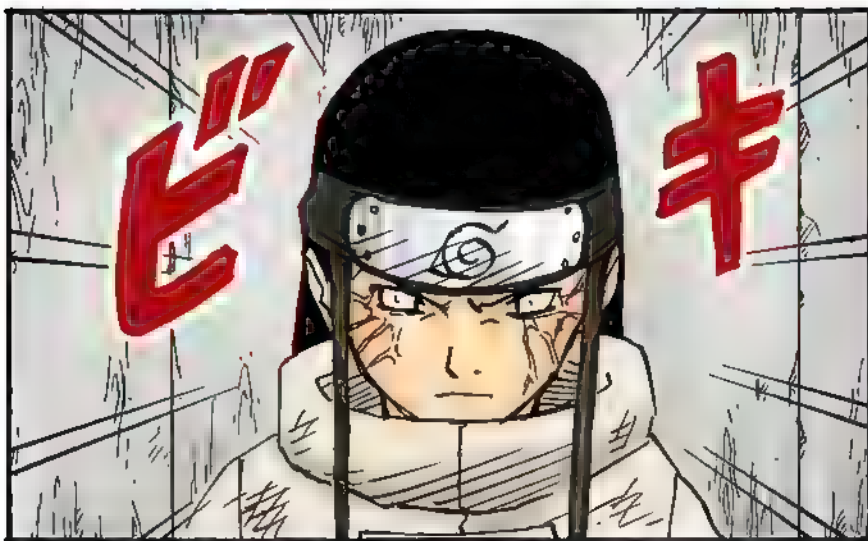
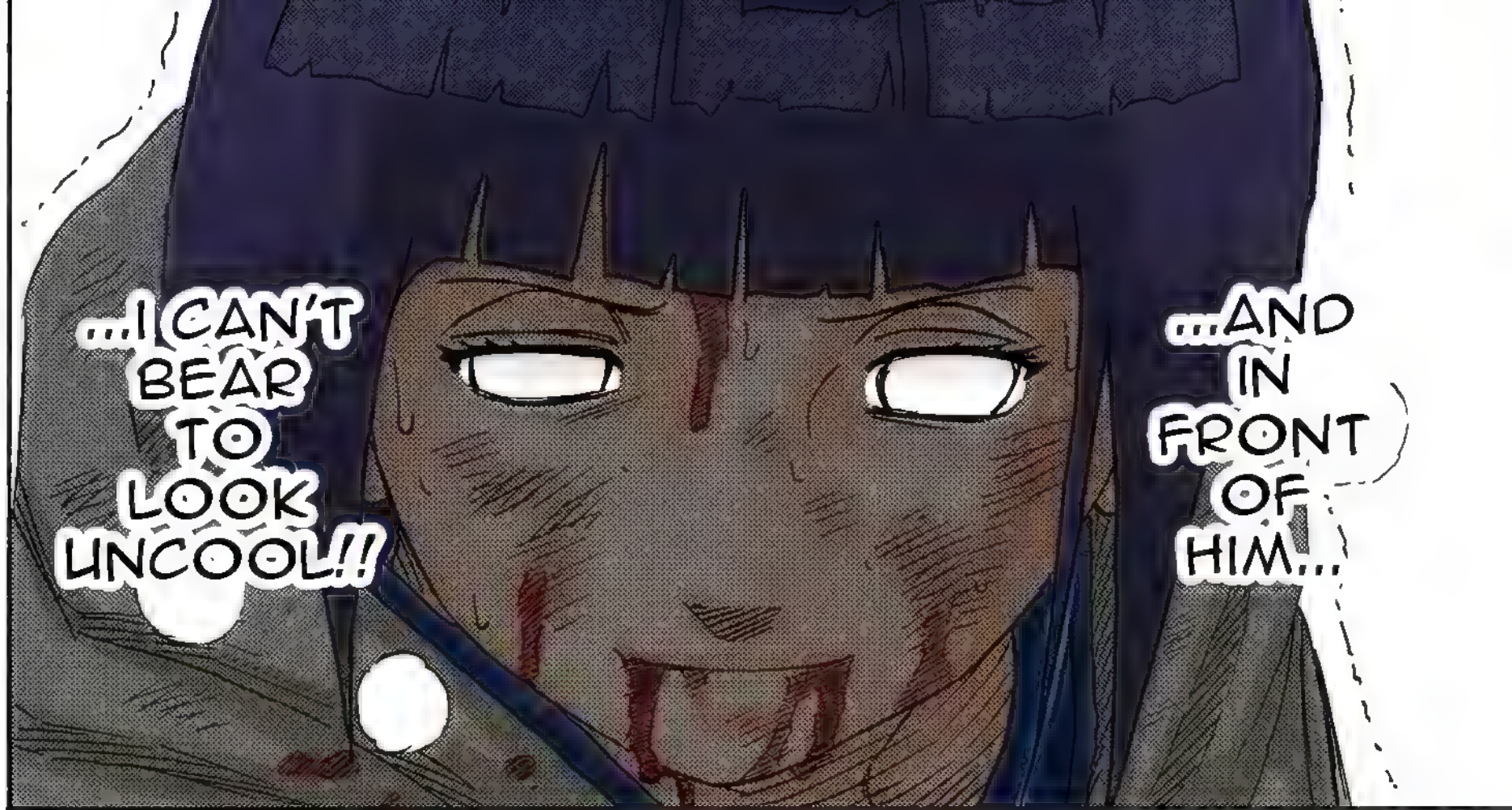
NARUTO!!

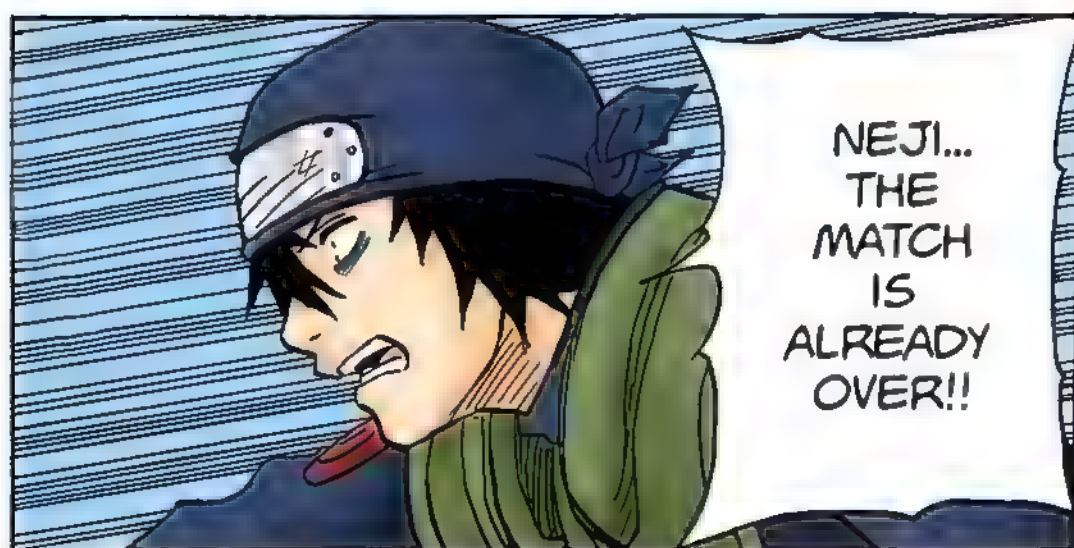
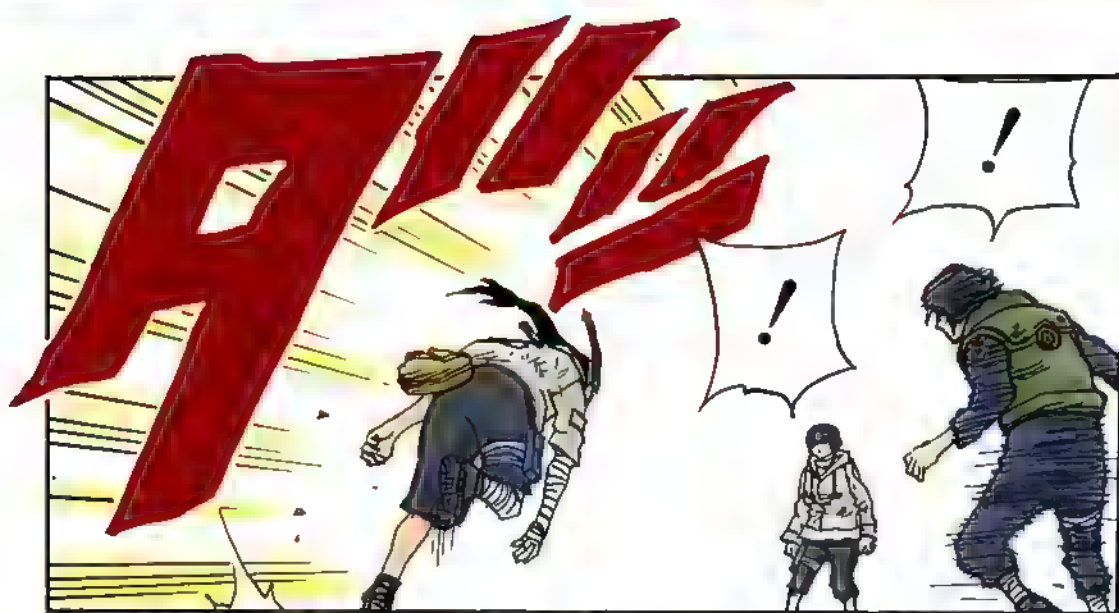


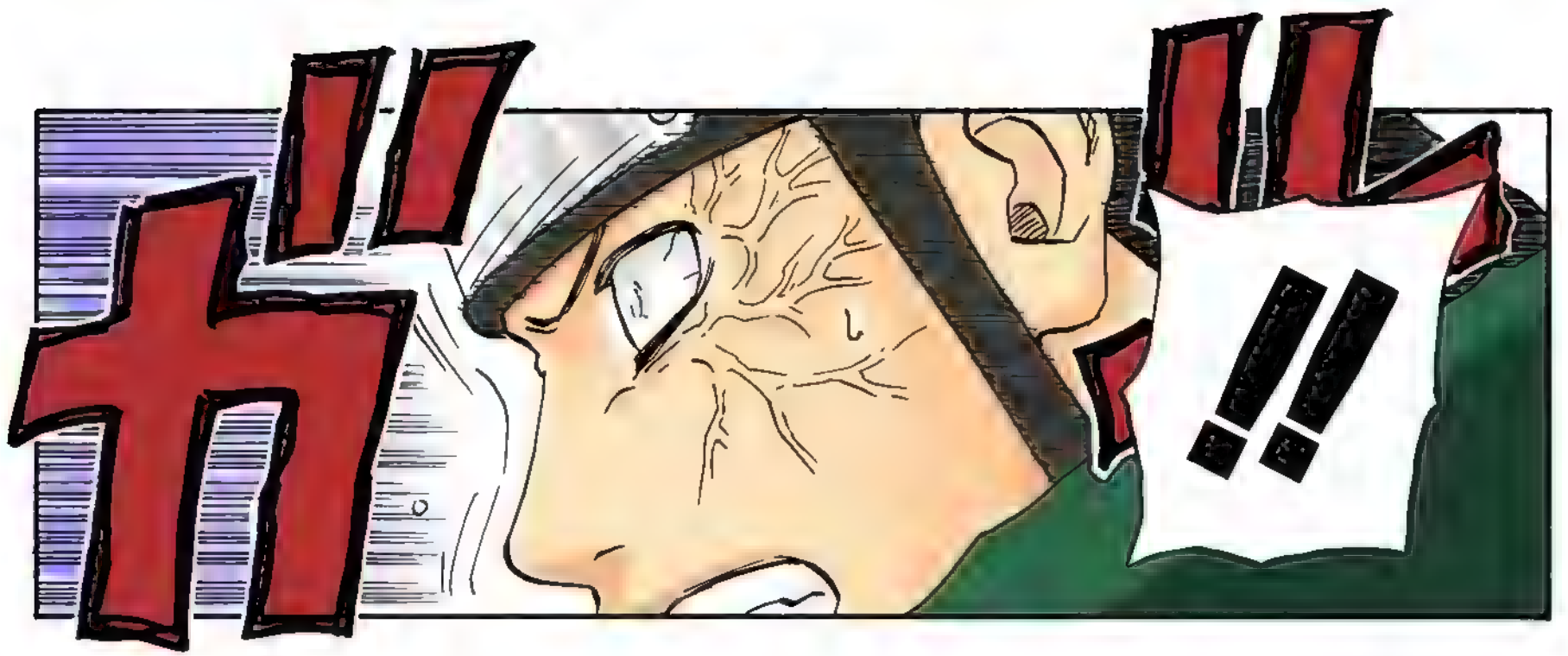


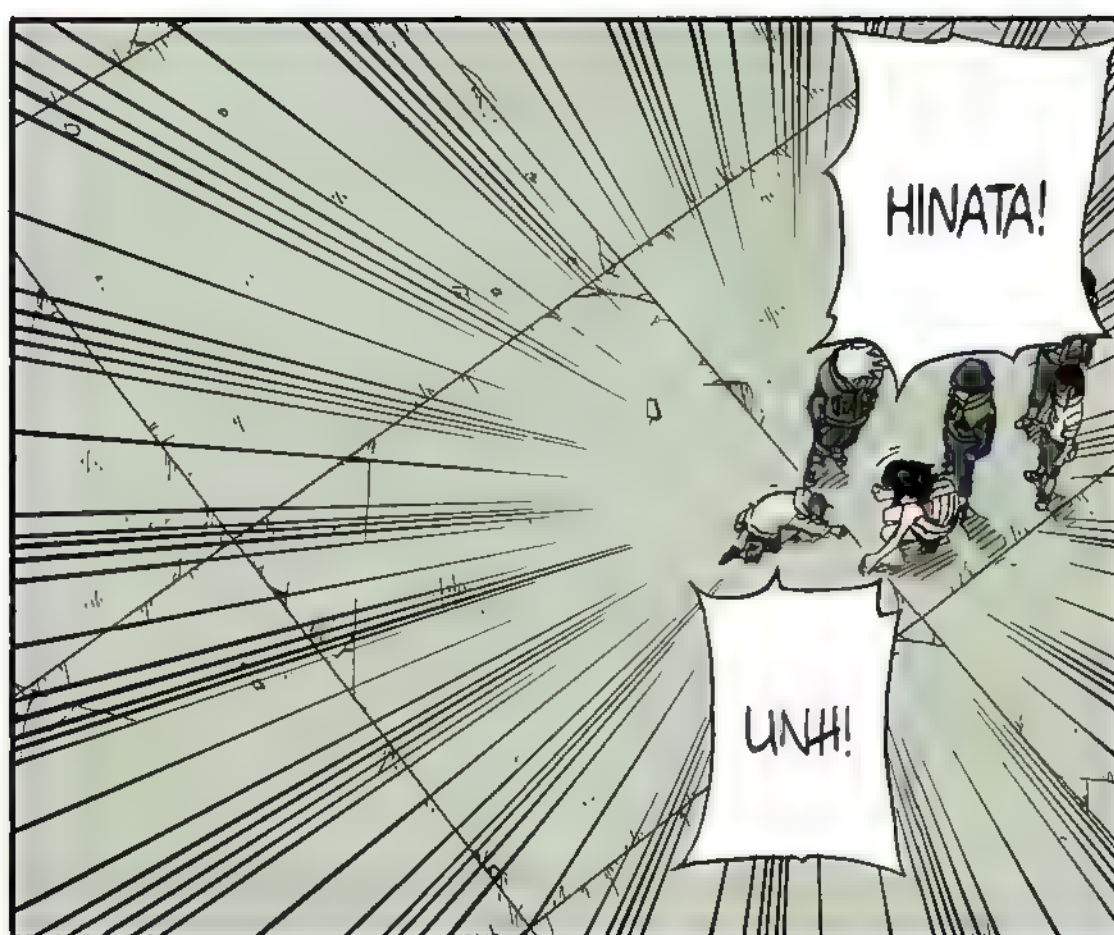
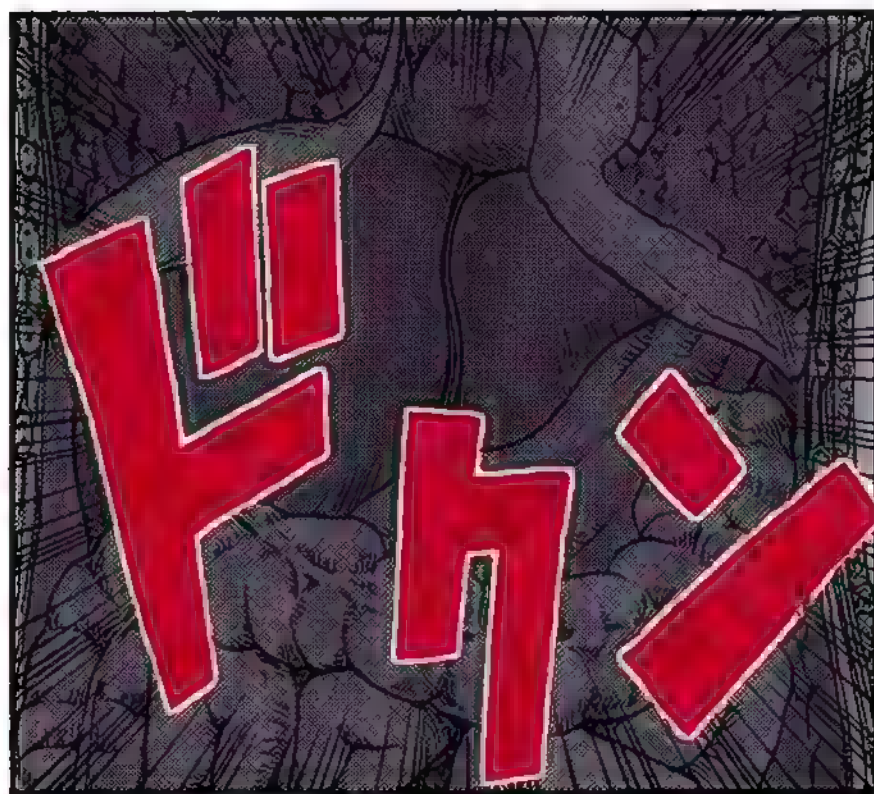
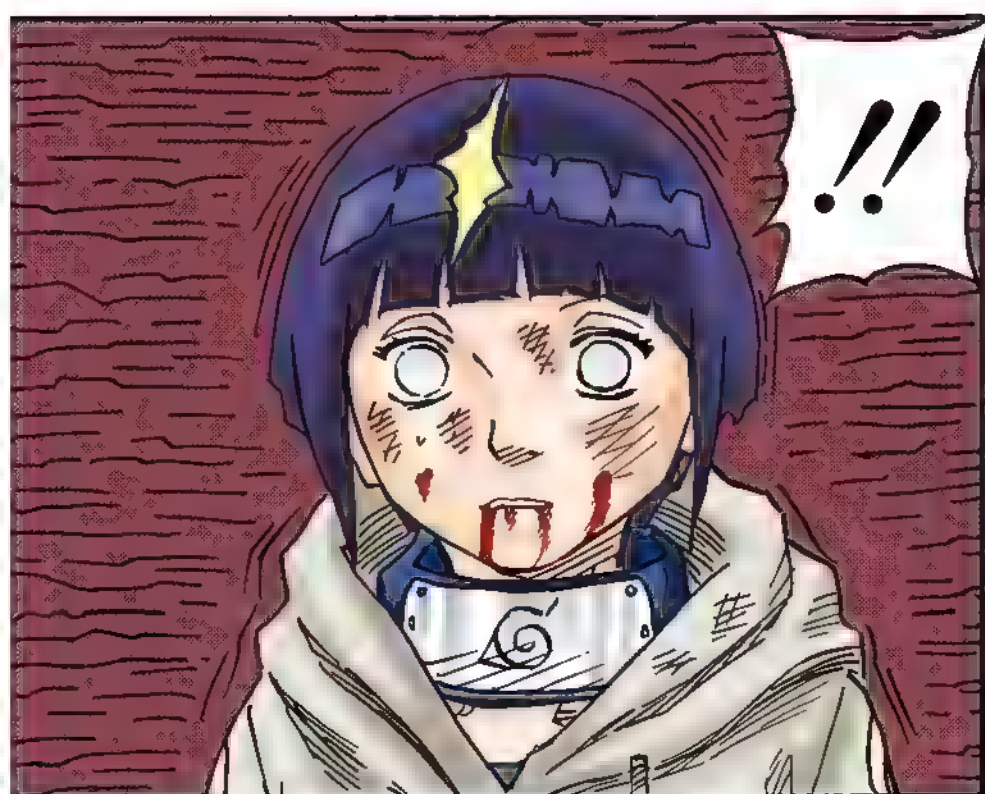


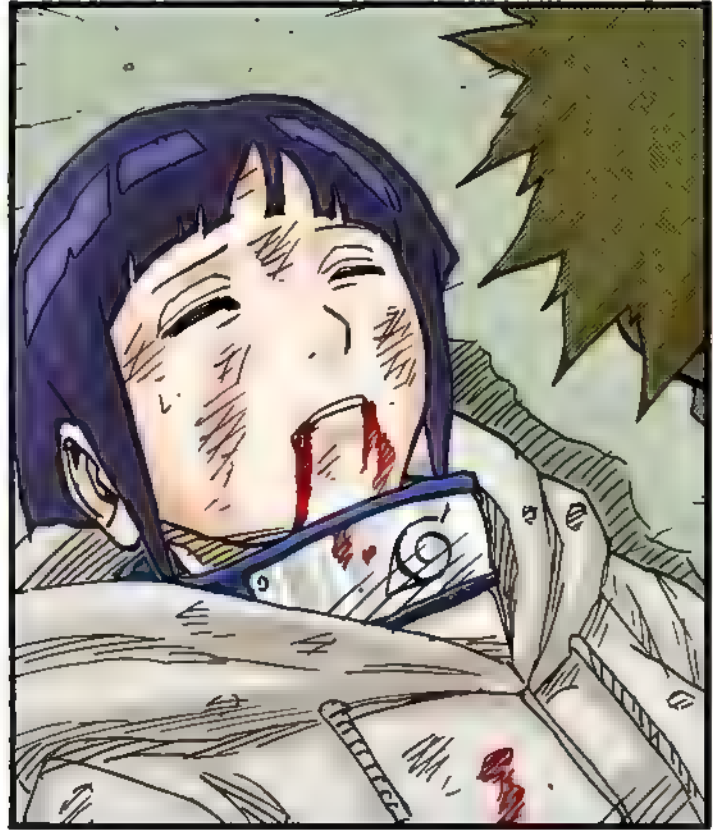
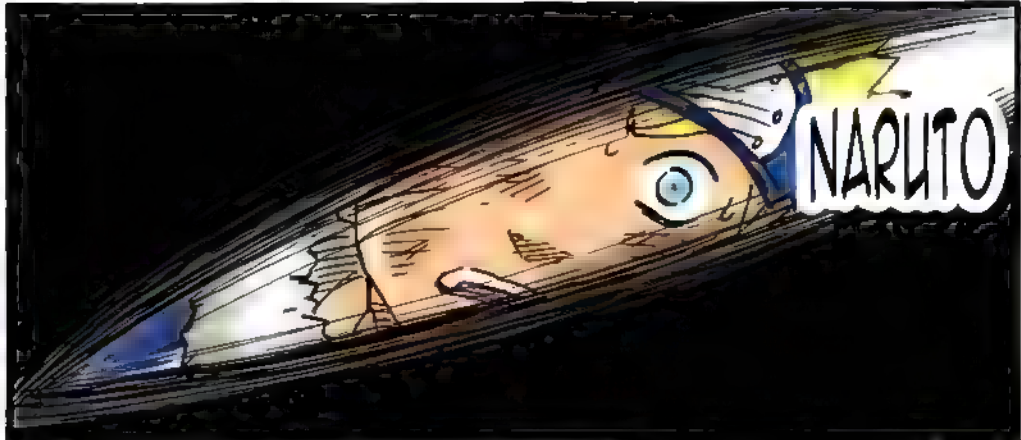
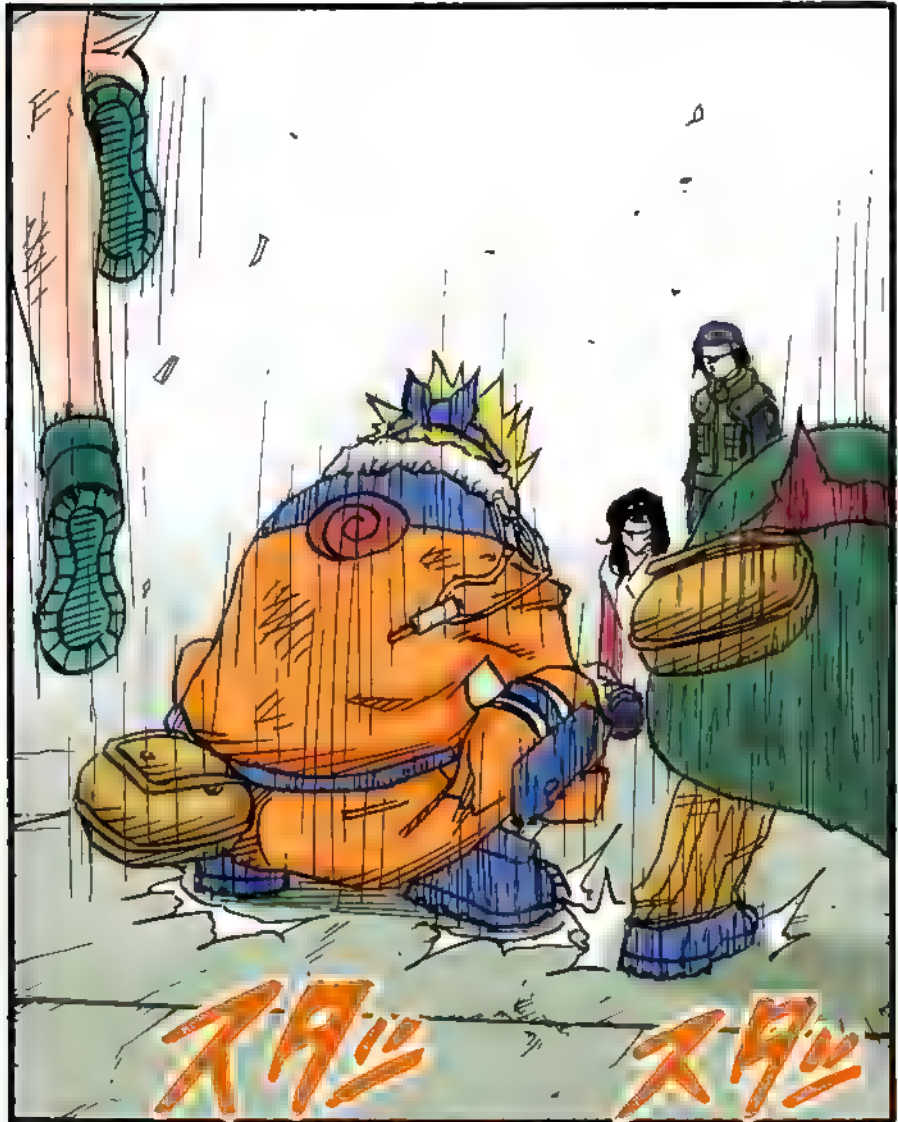
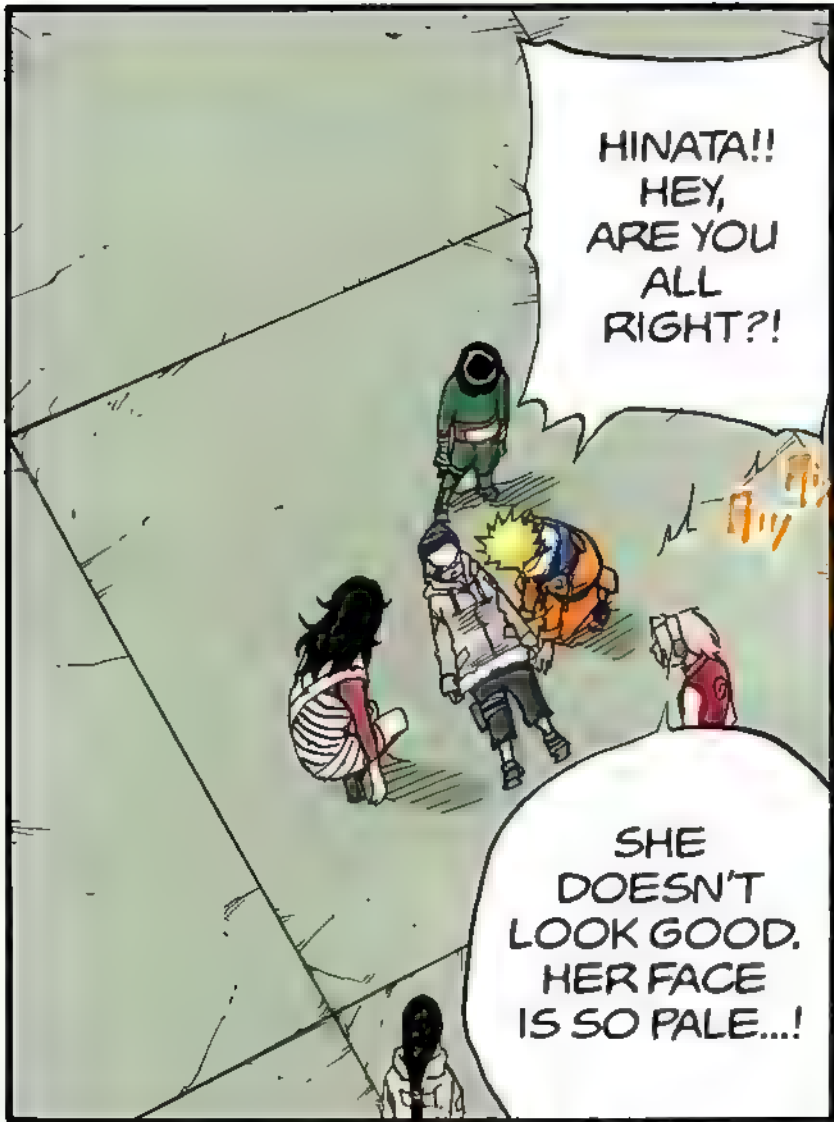






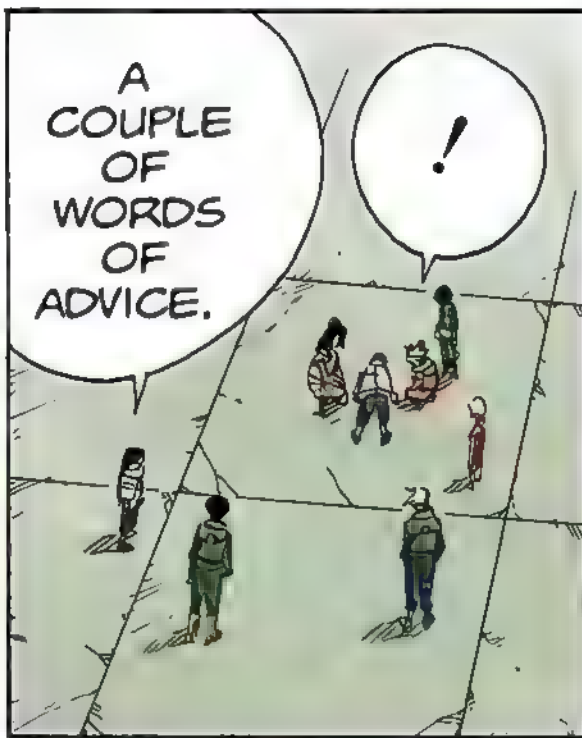
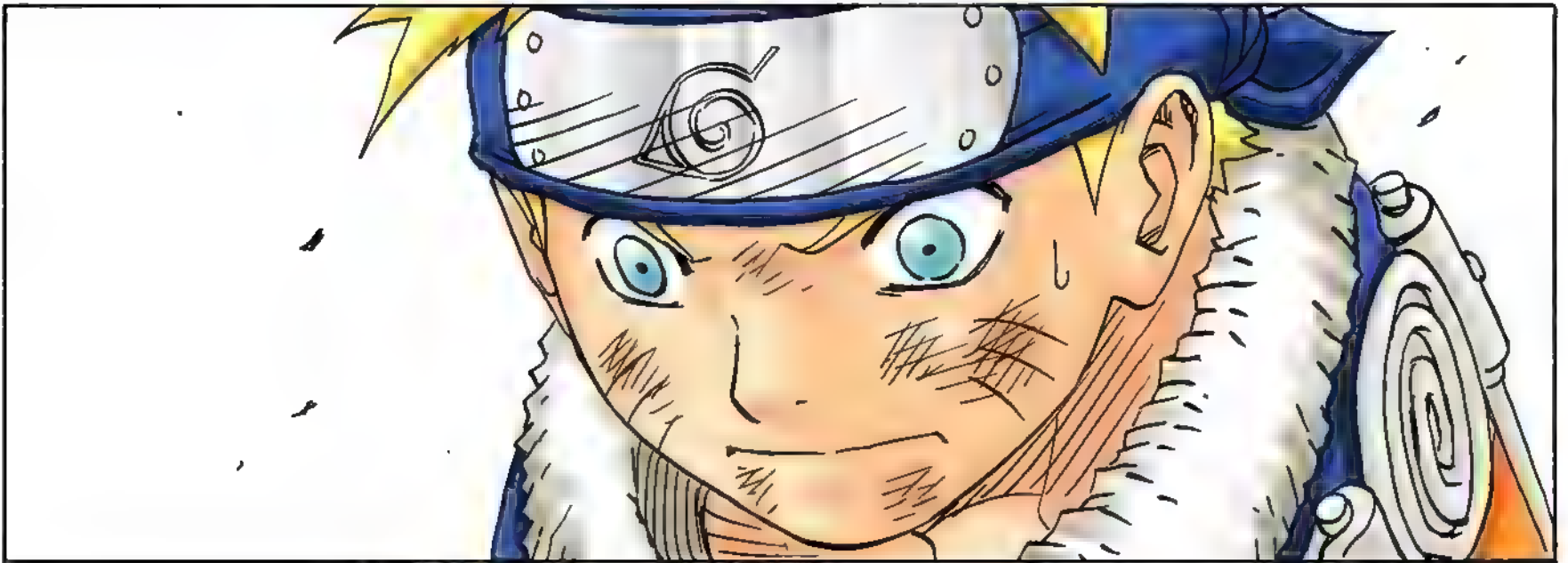






...MANAGED
TO CHANGE...
JUST A
LITTLE BIT...

...I... WONDER
IF MAYBE I...



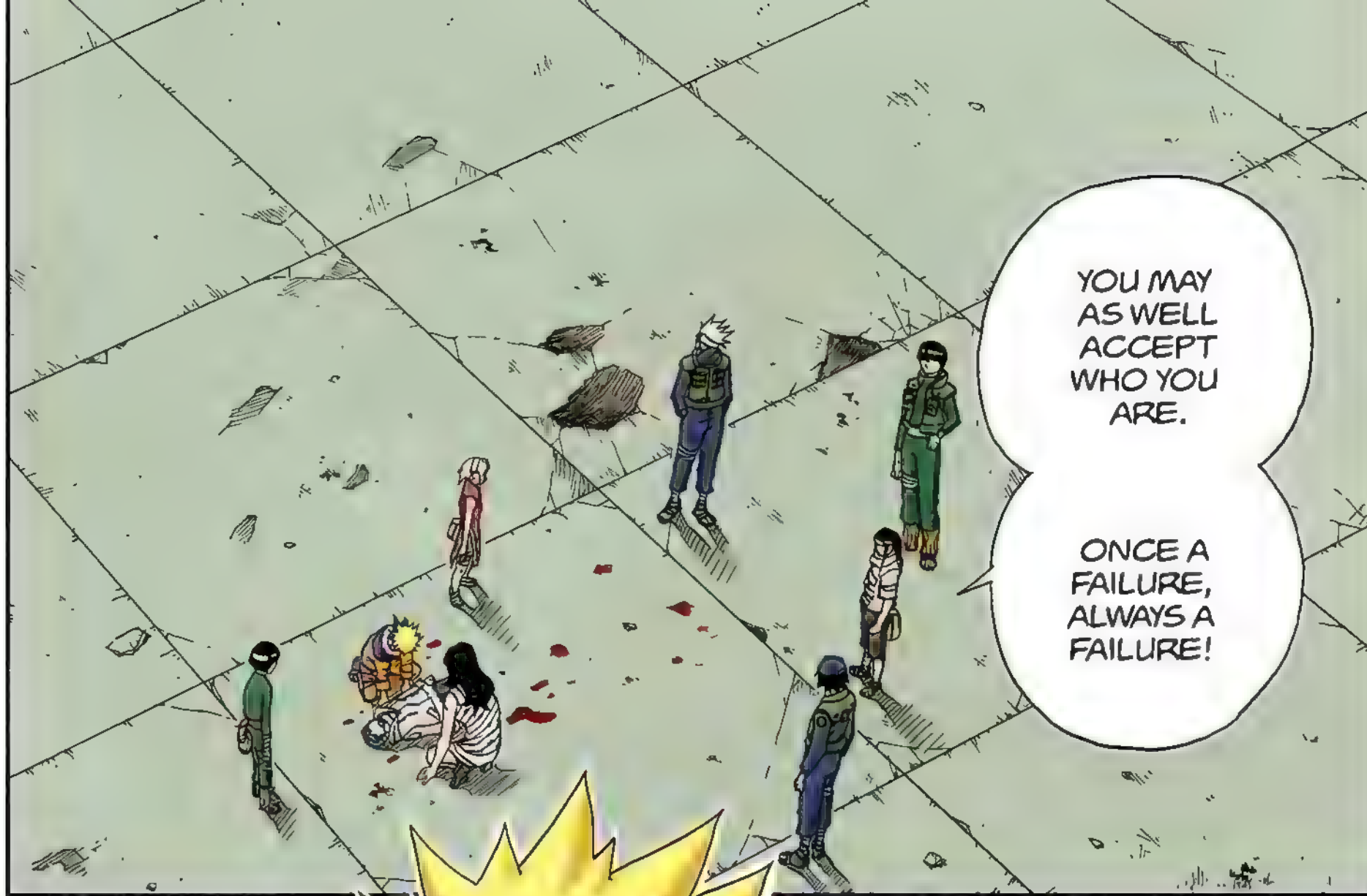
ナンバー

81 :

砂肝亭

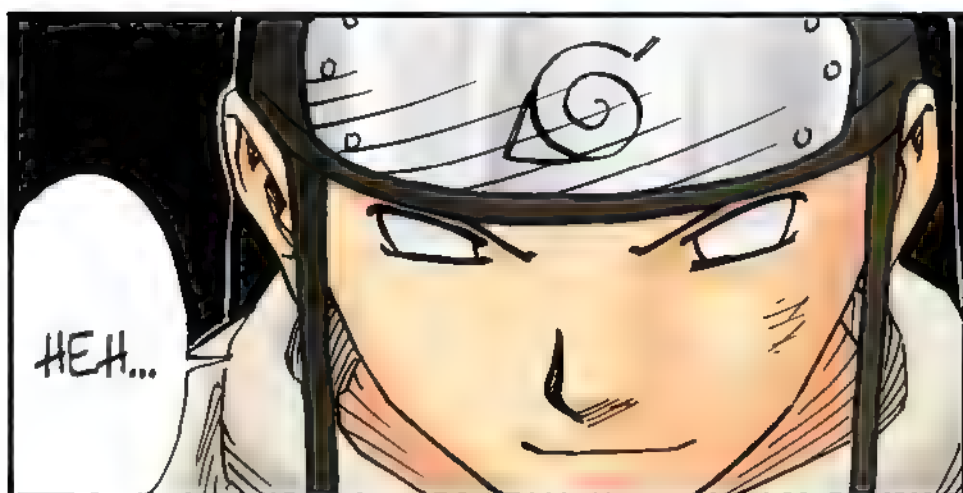
アキラ

GAARALS

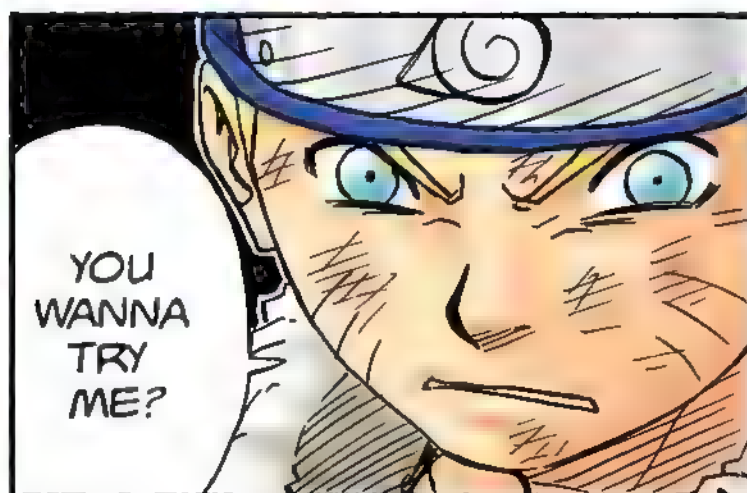


YOU MAY
AS WELL
ACCEPT
WHO YOU
ARE.

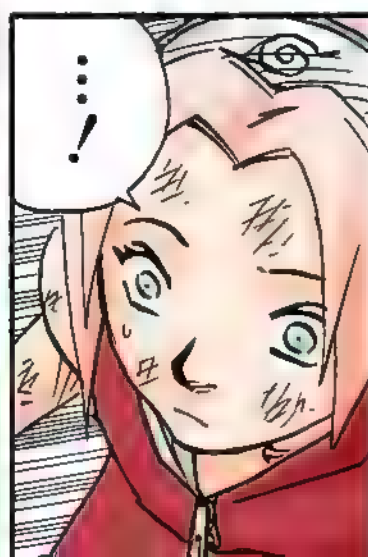
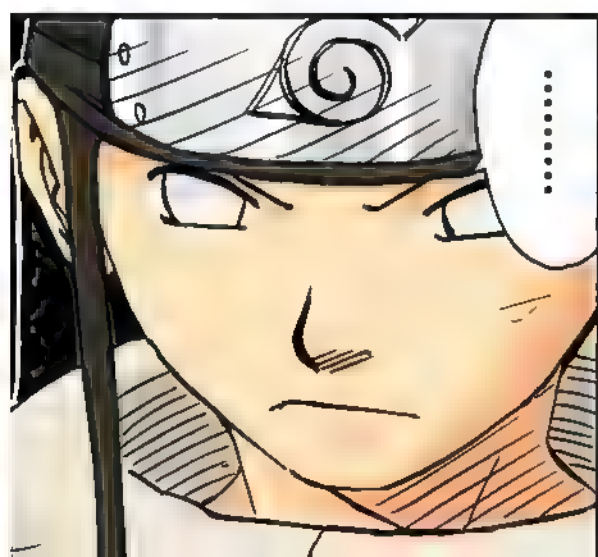
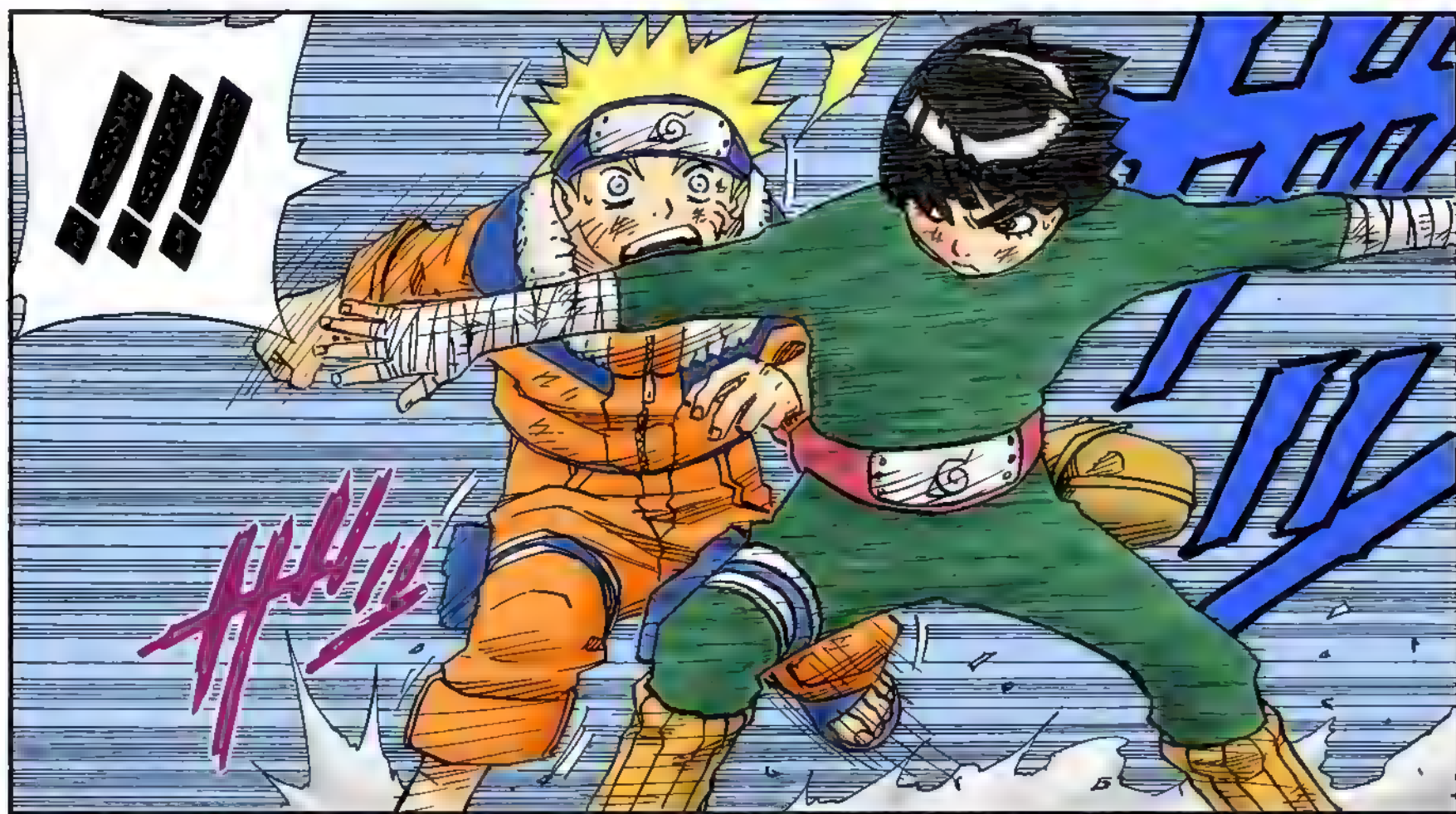
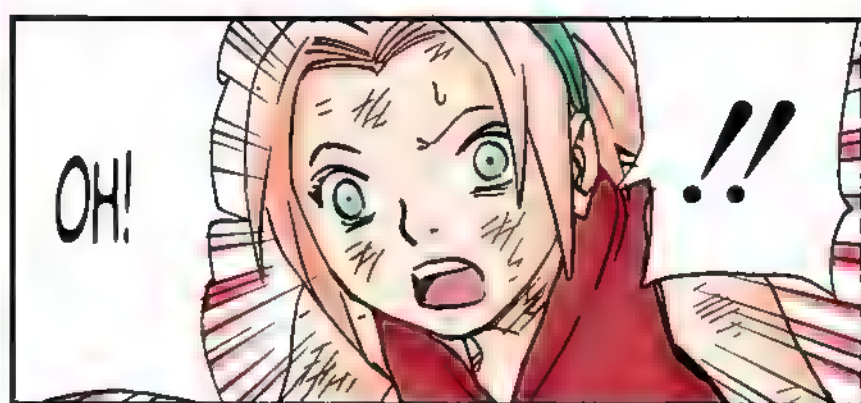
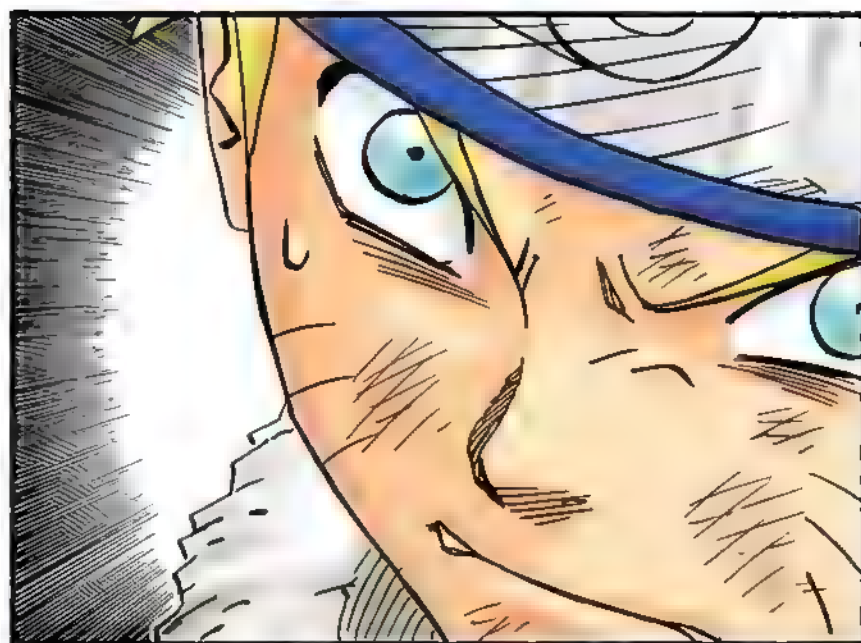
ONCE A
FAILURE,
ALWAYS A
FAILURE!

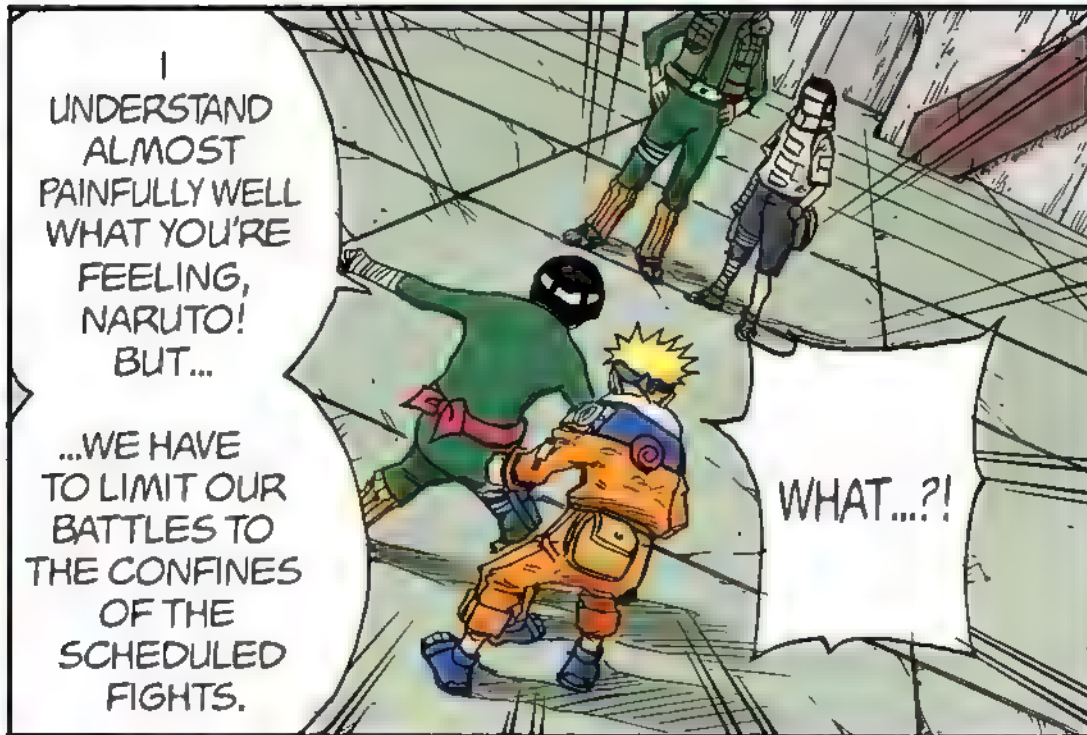


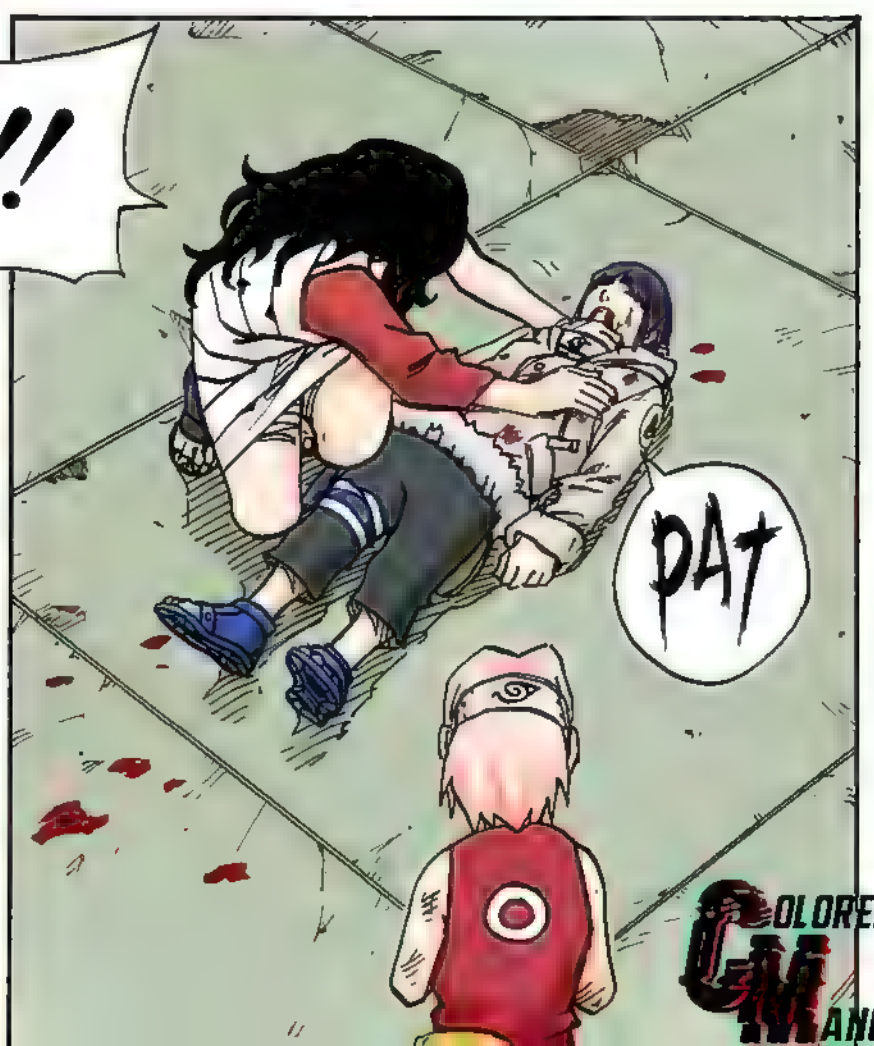
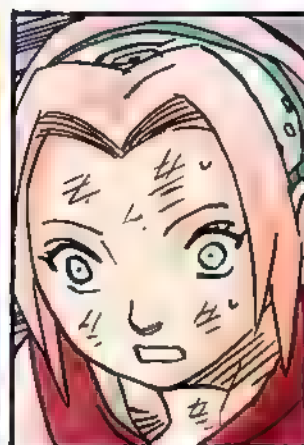
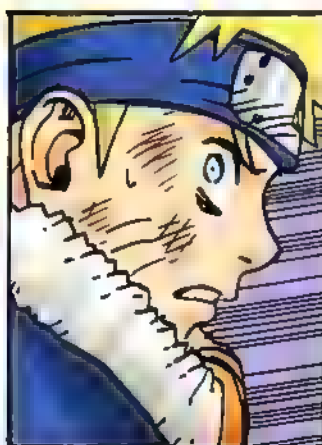
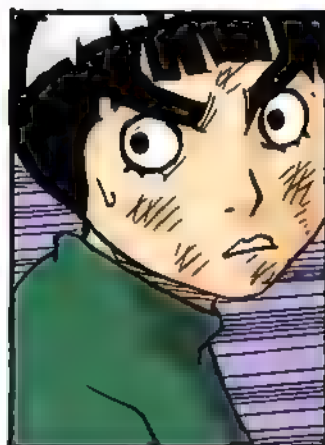
HEH...

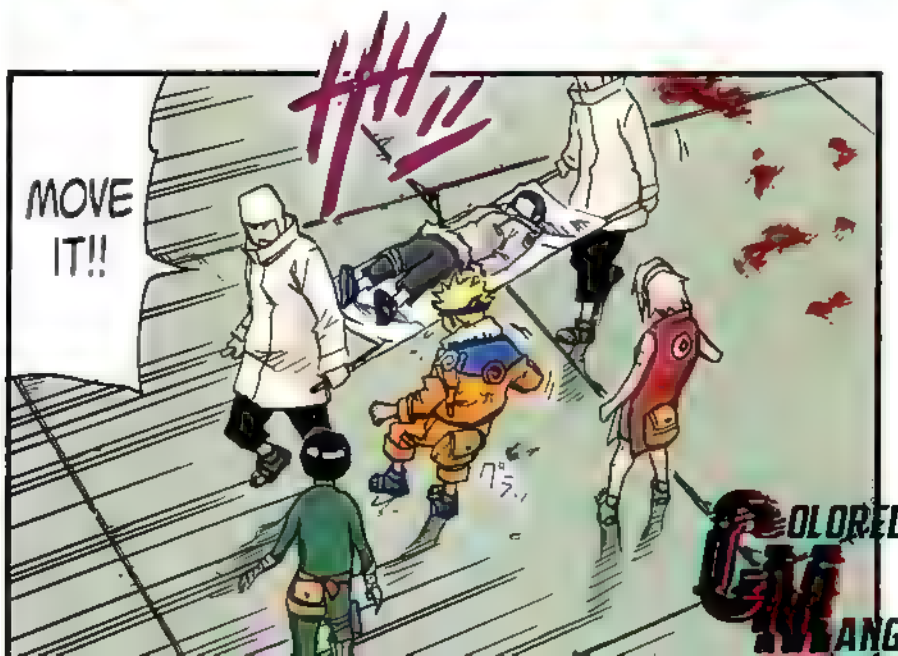
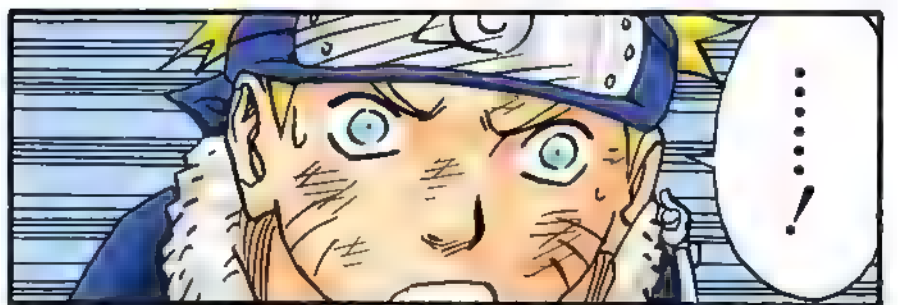
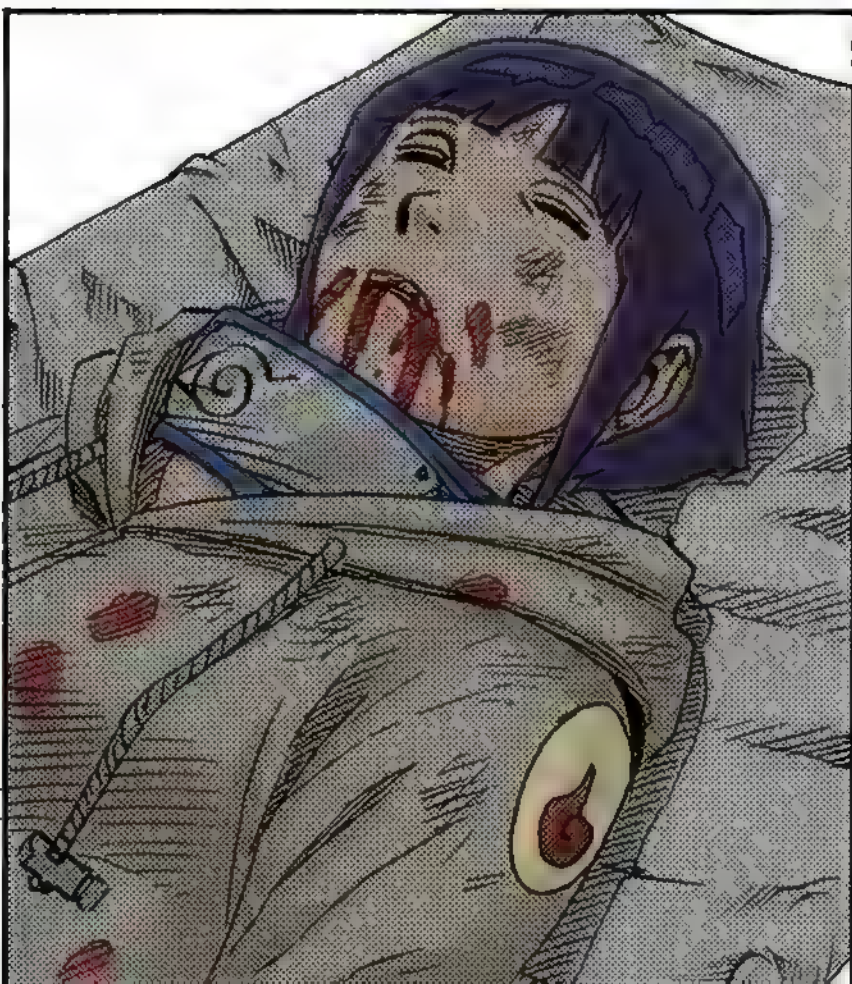
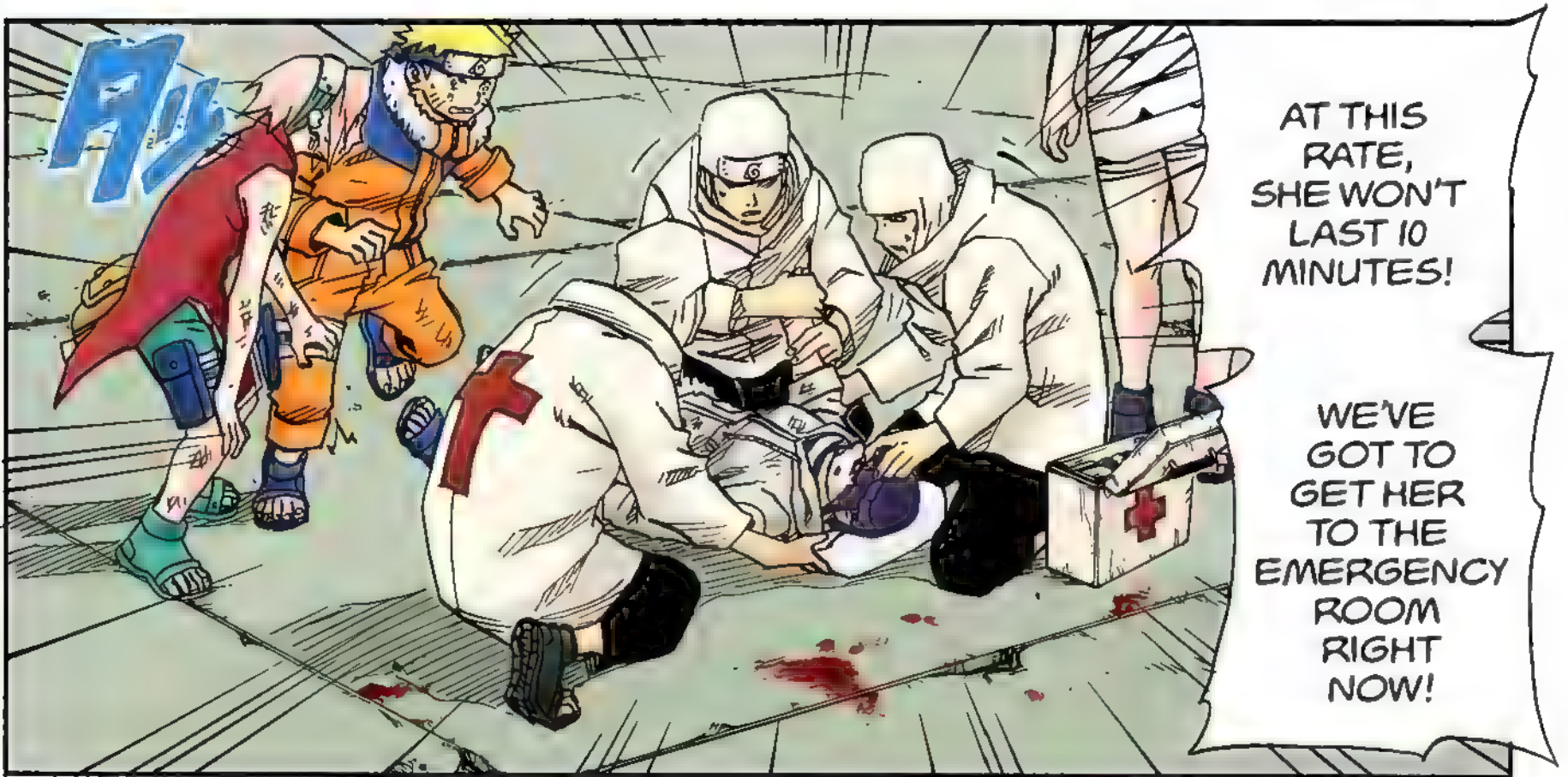
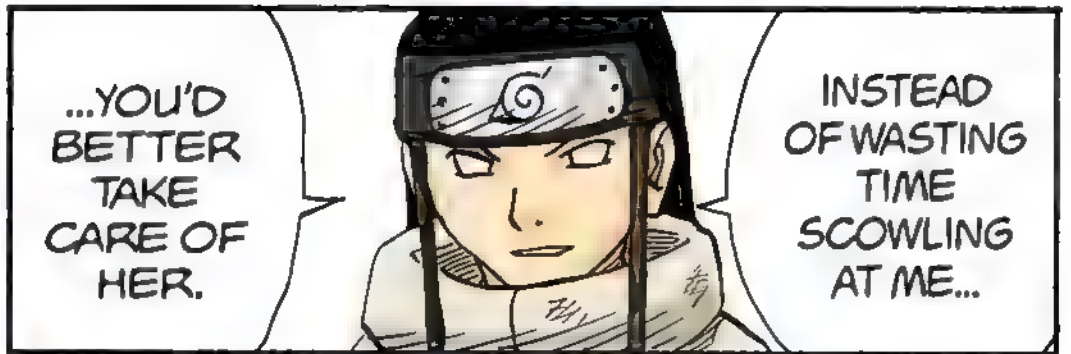
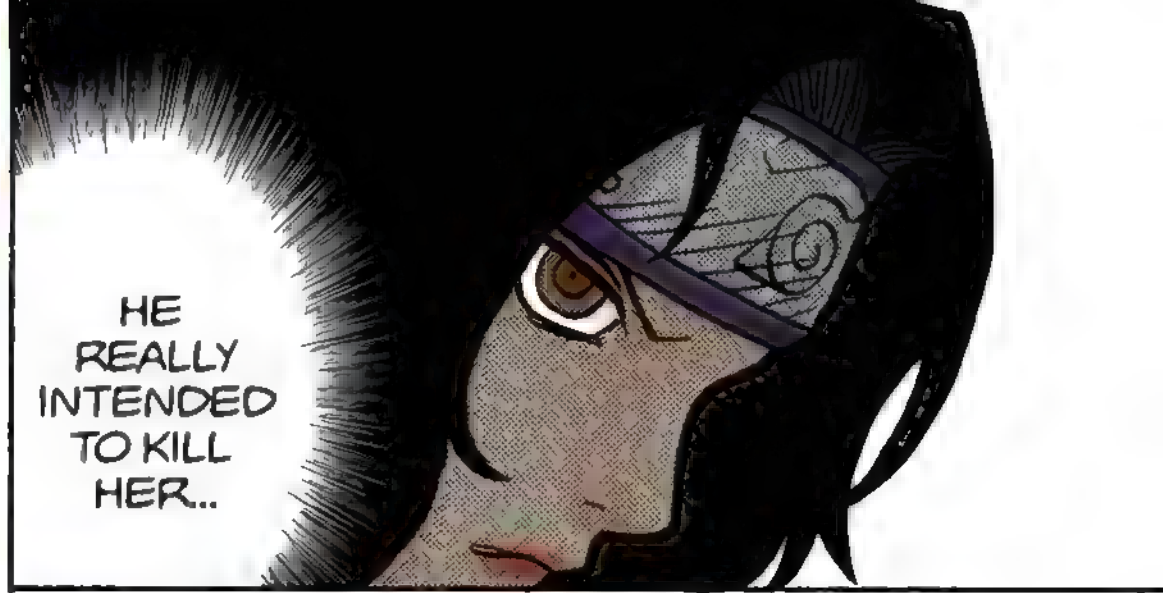
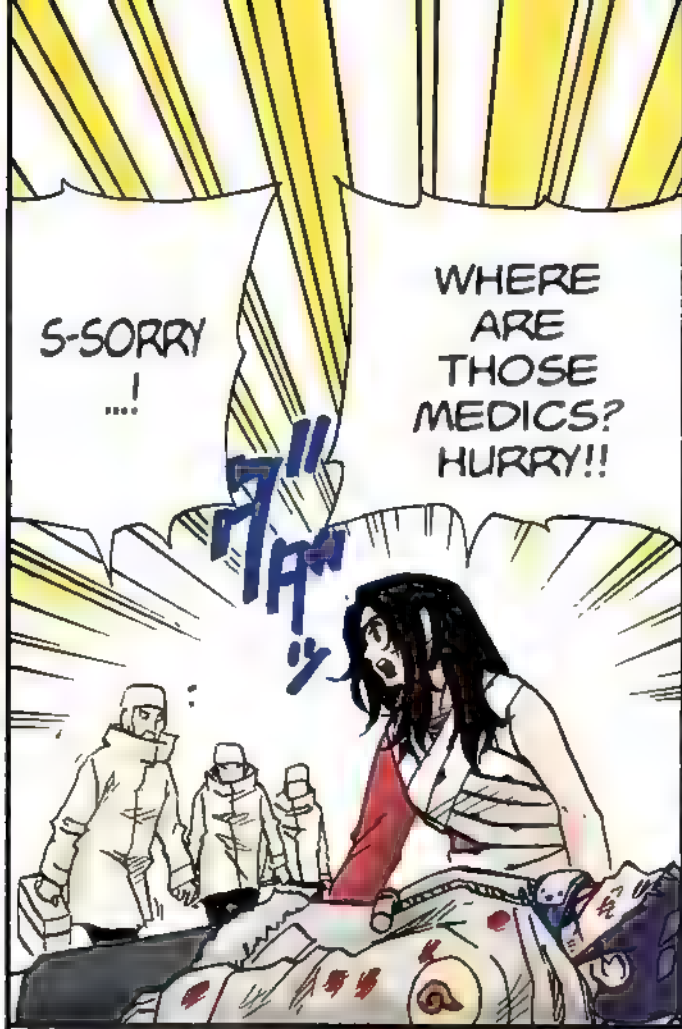


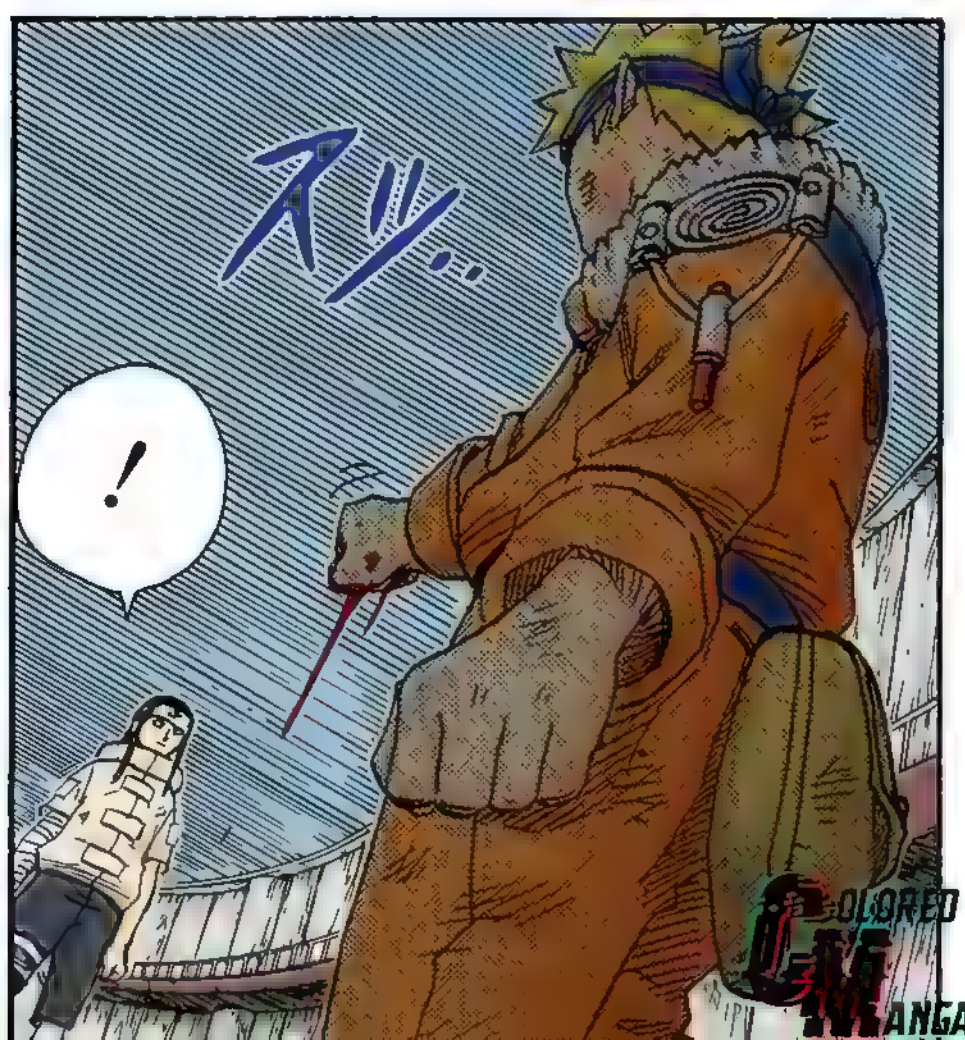
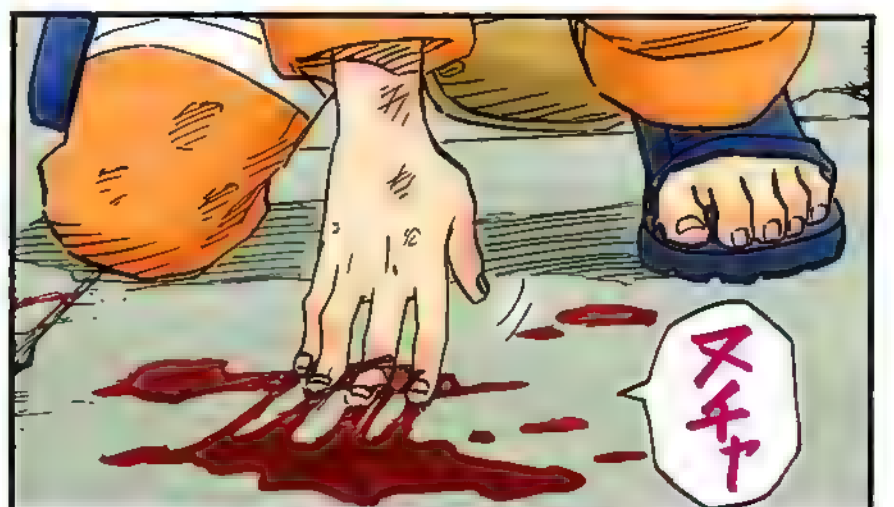
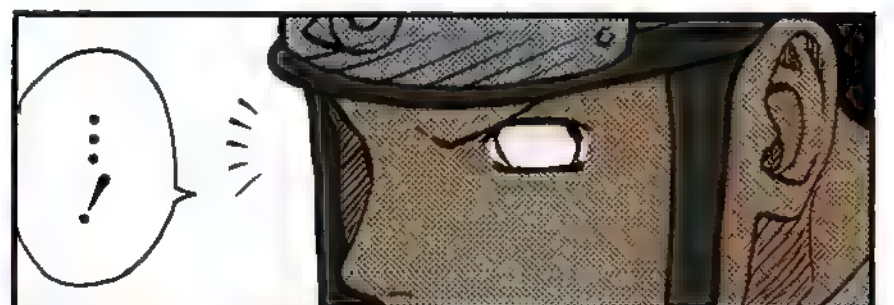
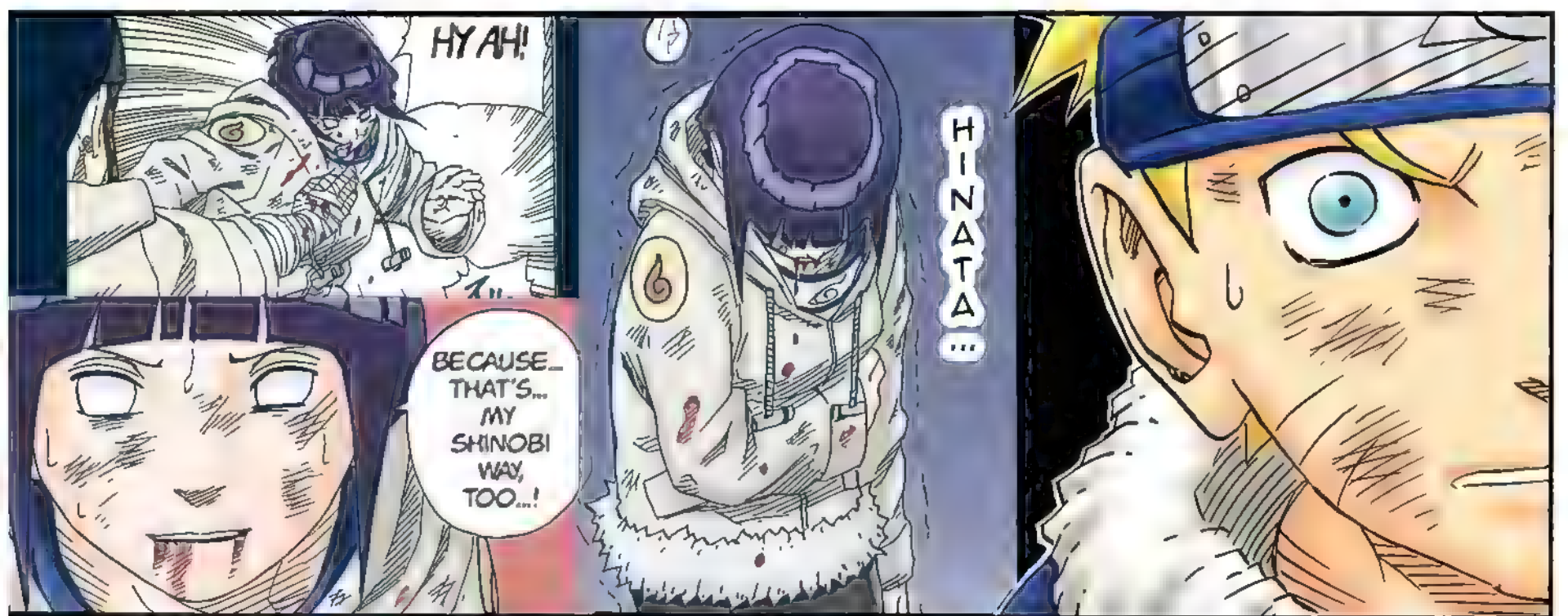
YOU
WANNA
TRY
ME?

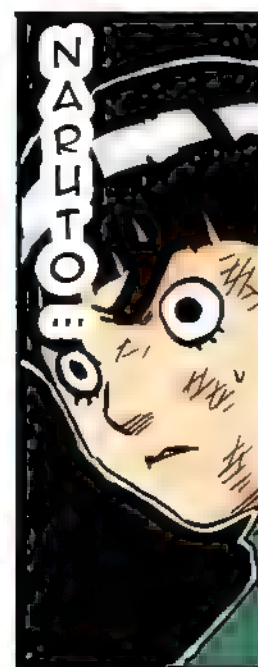
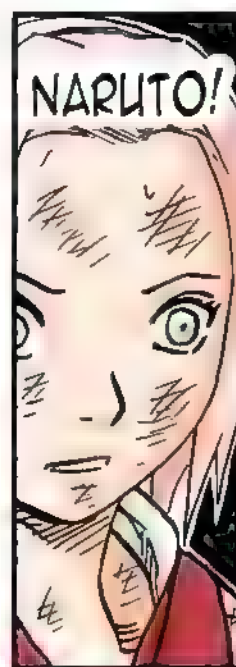
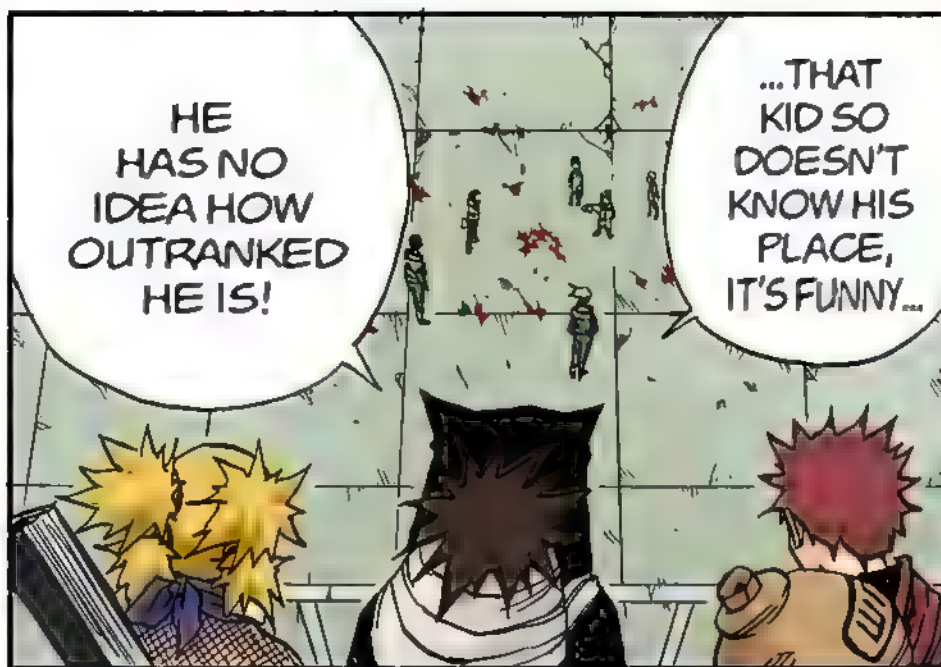
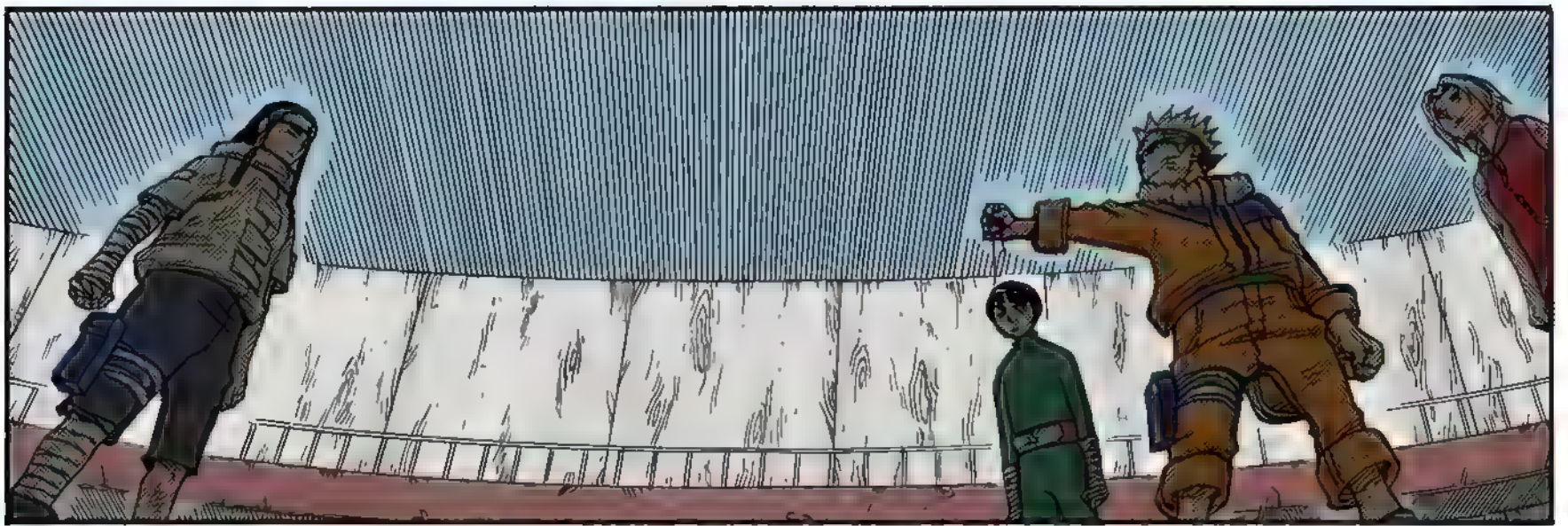


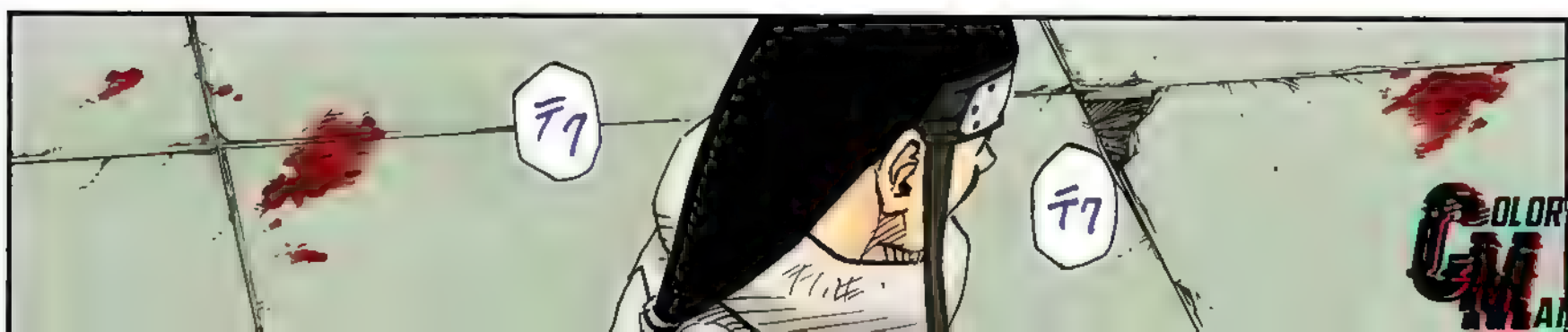
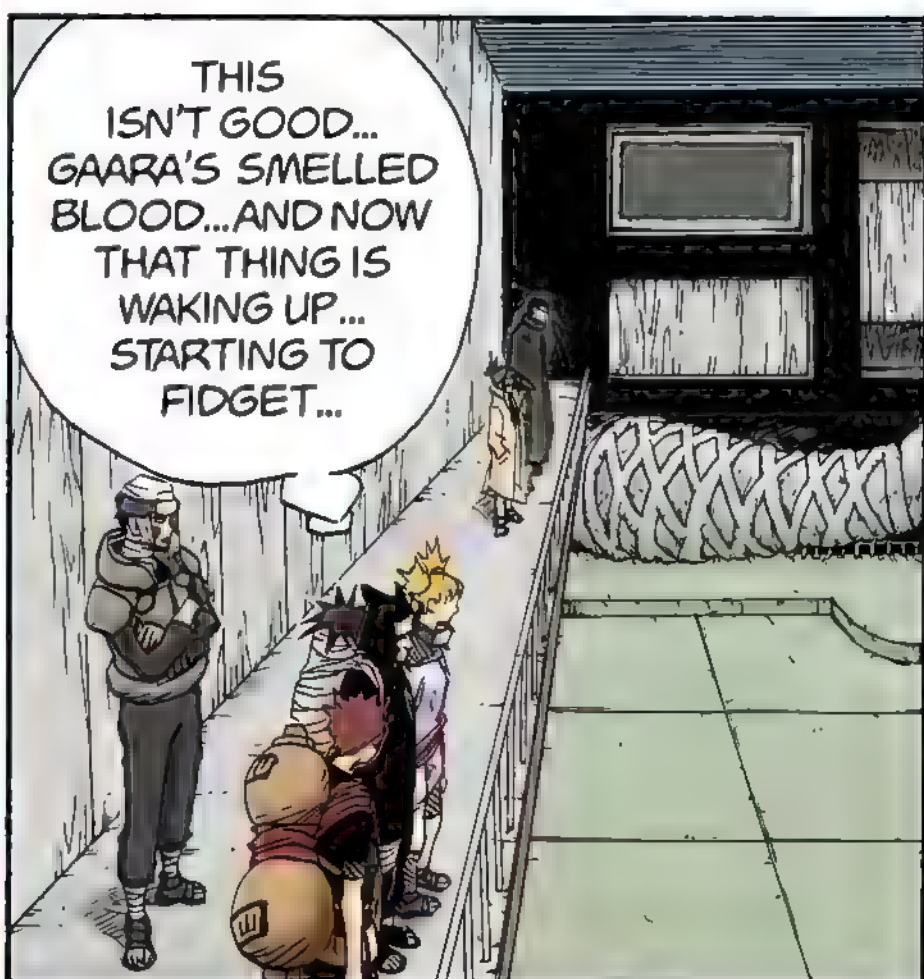
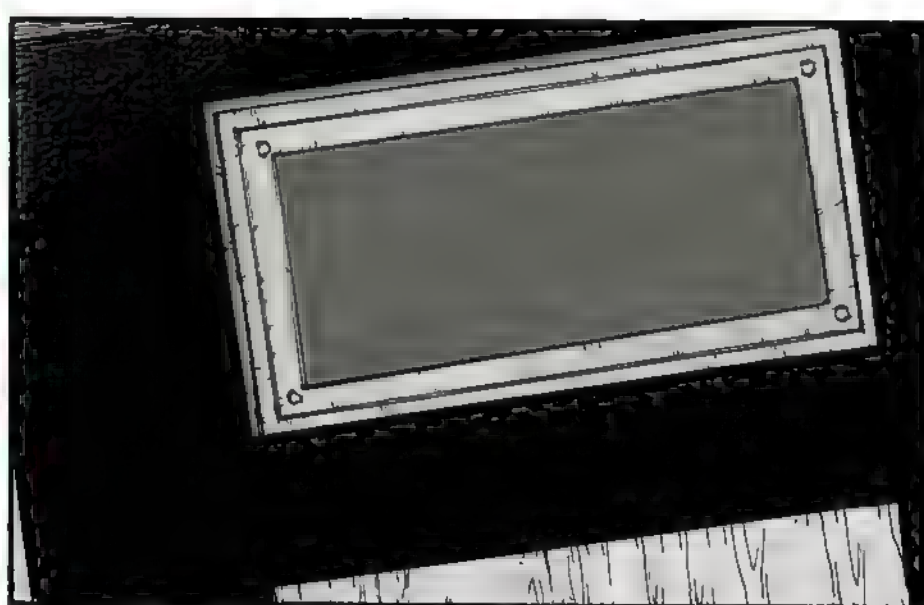
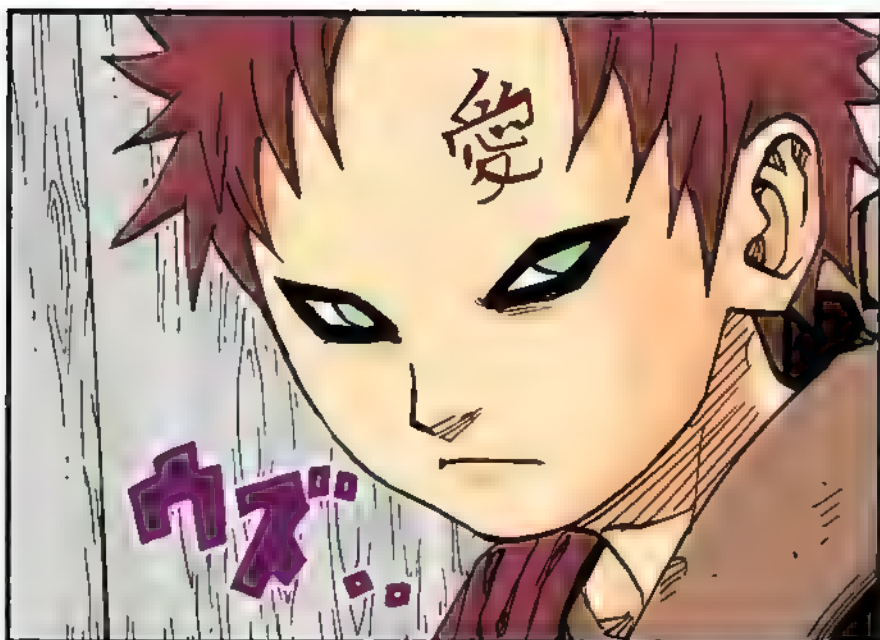


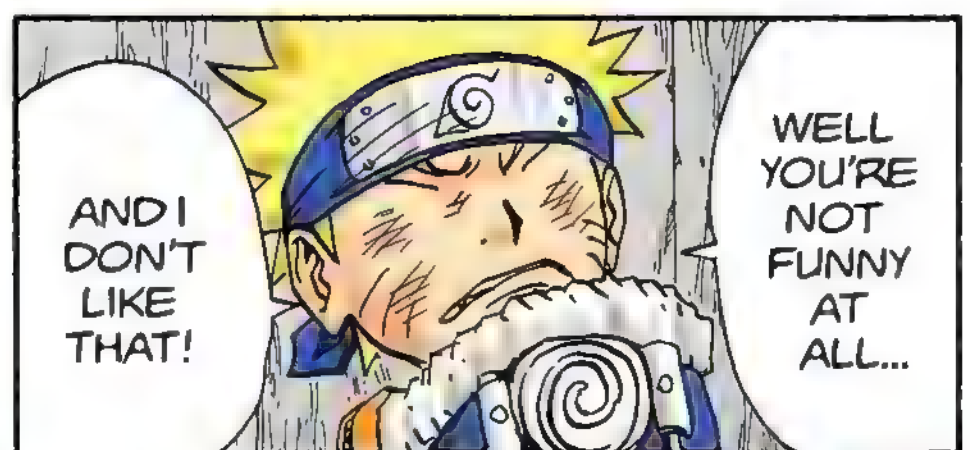
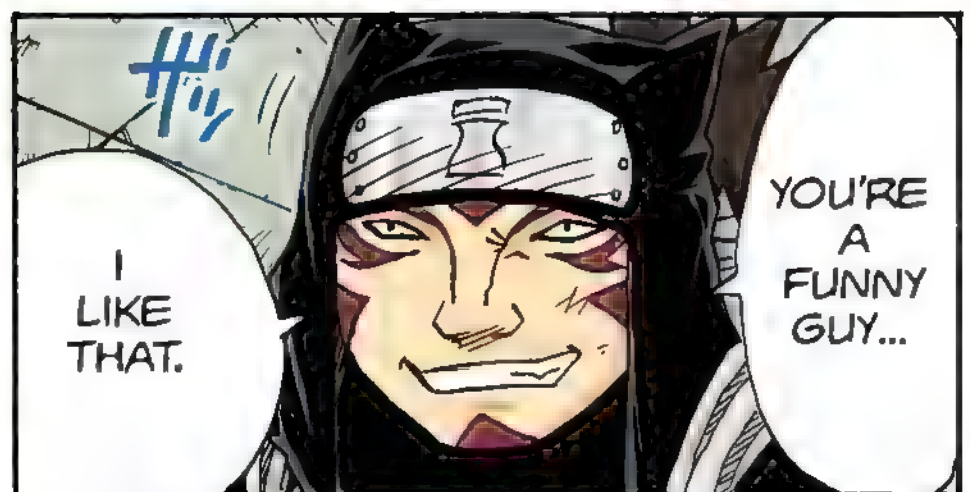
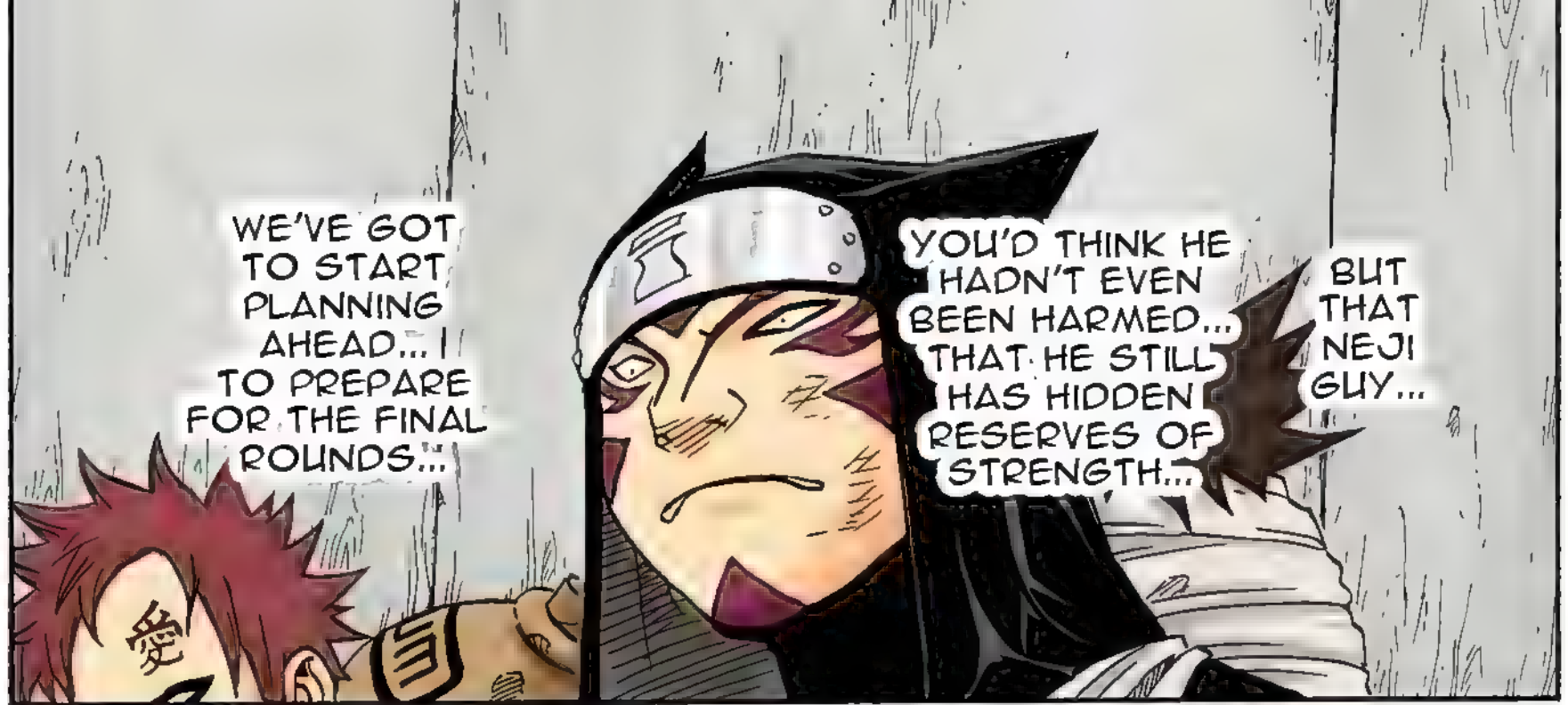


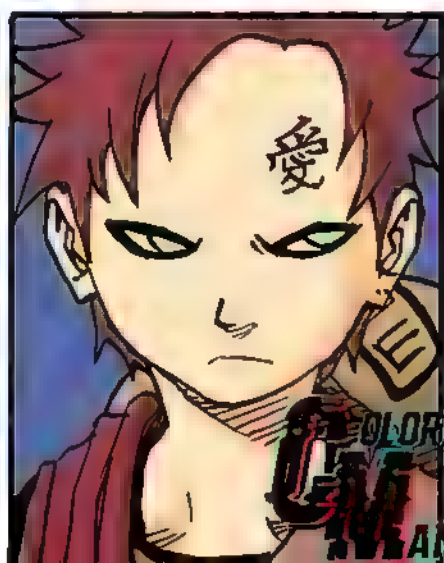
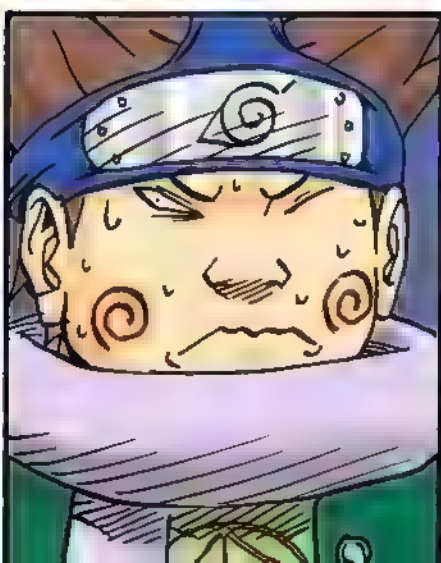
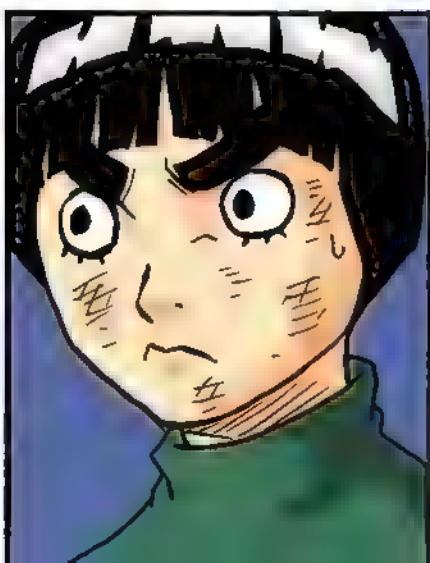


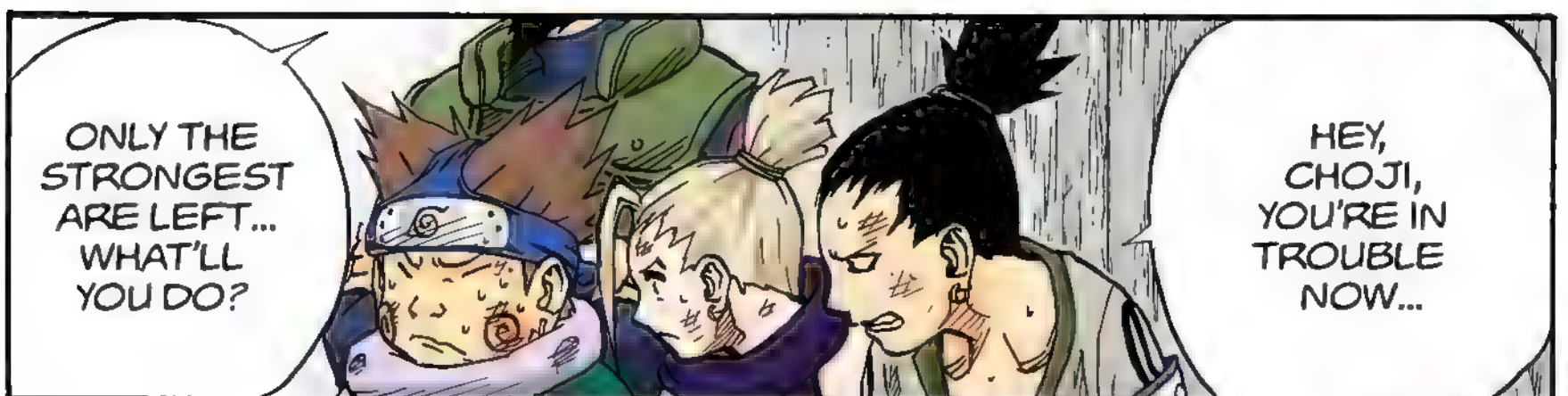


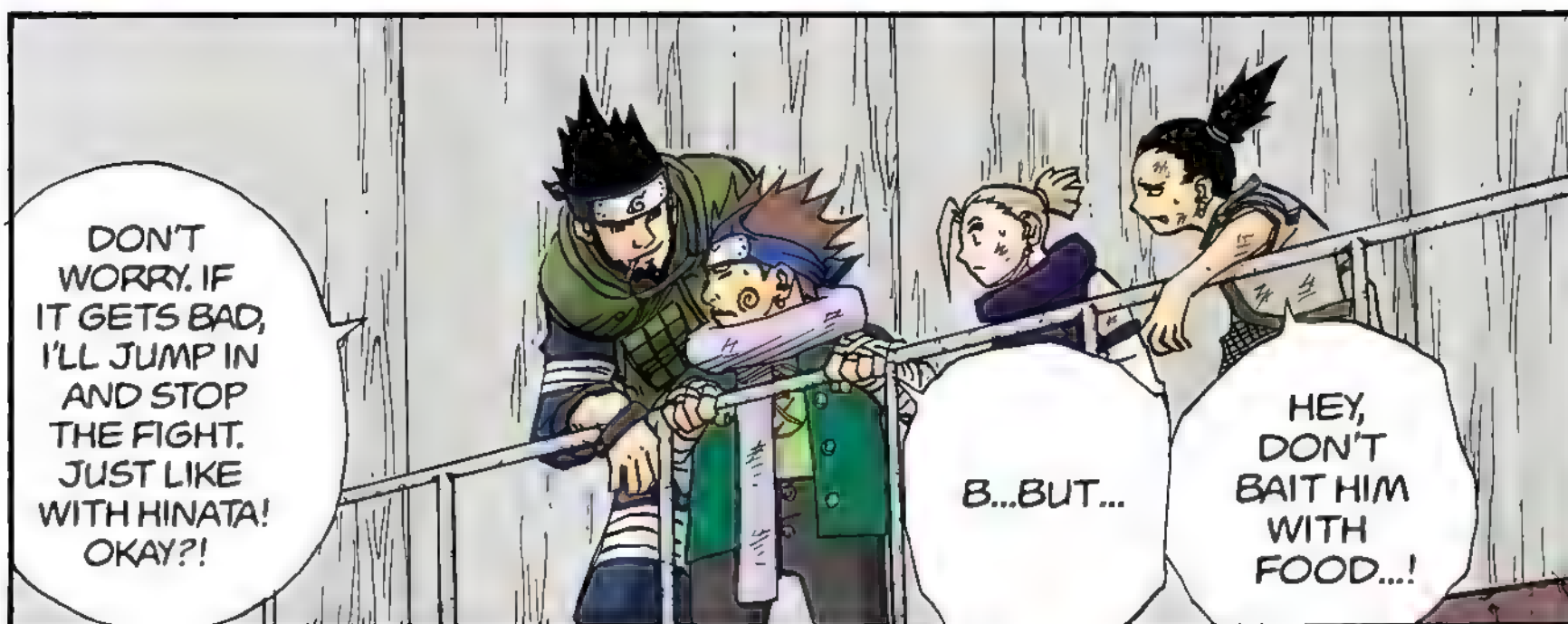


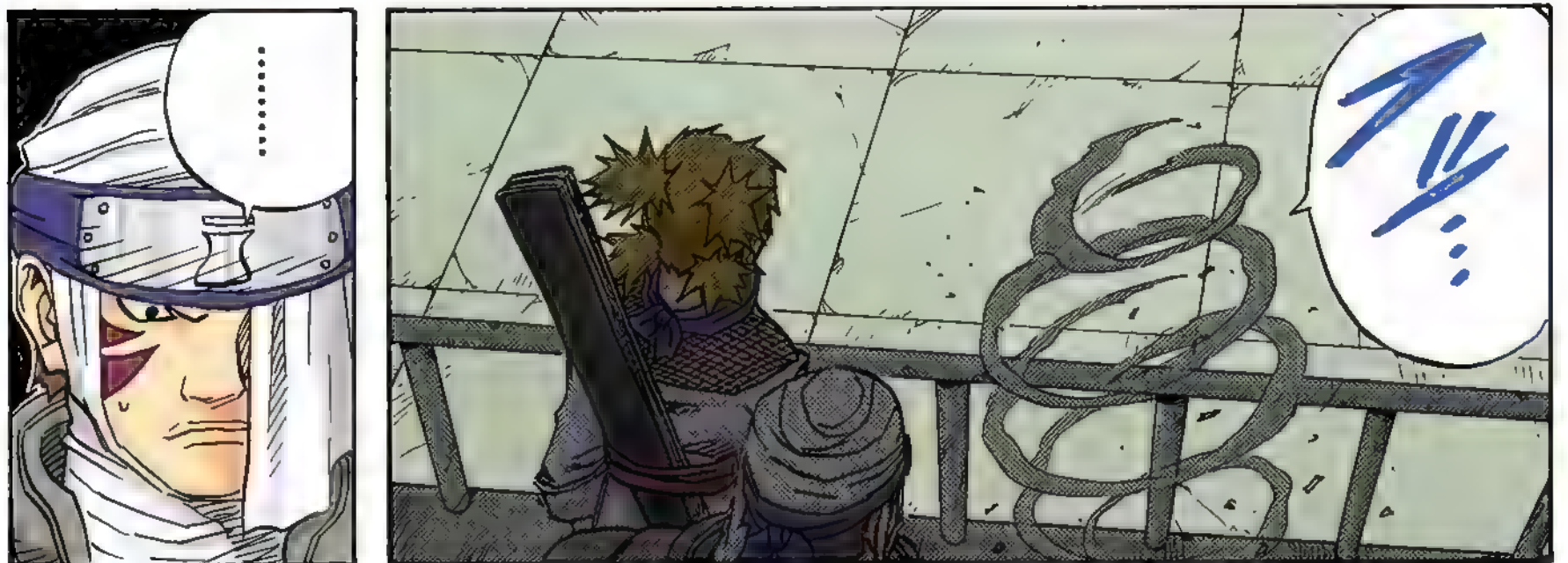
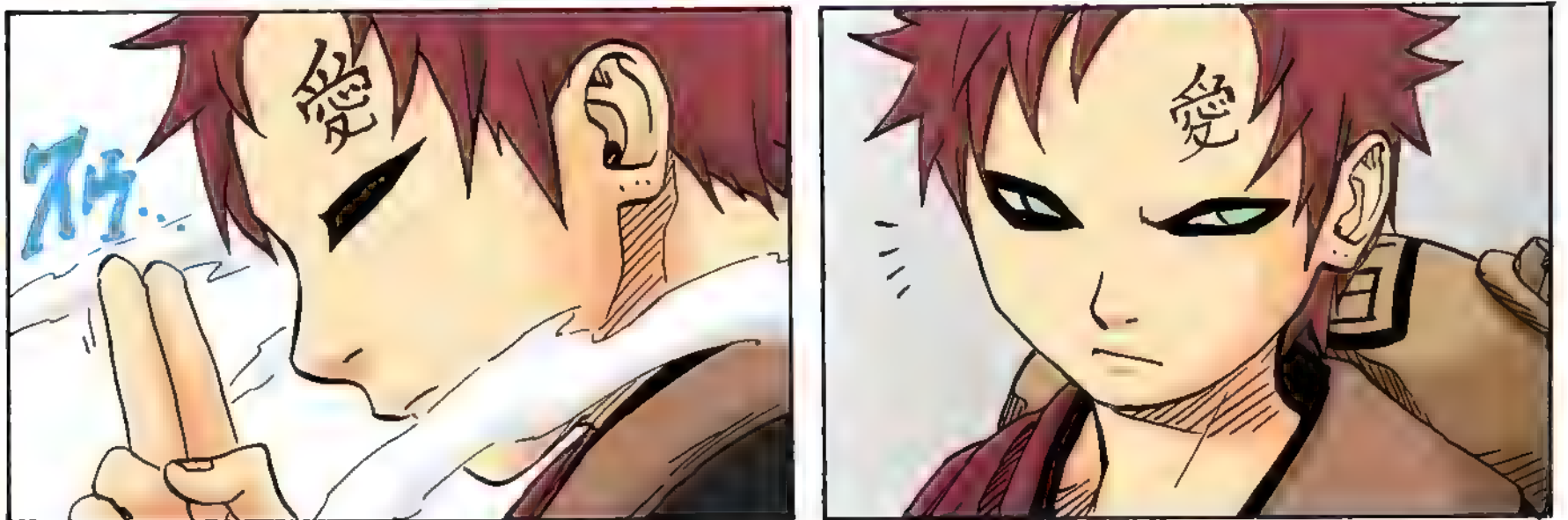
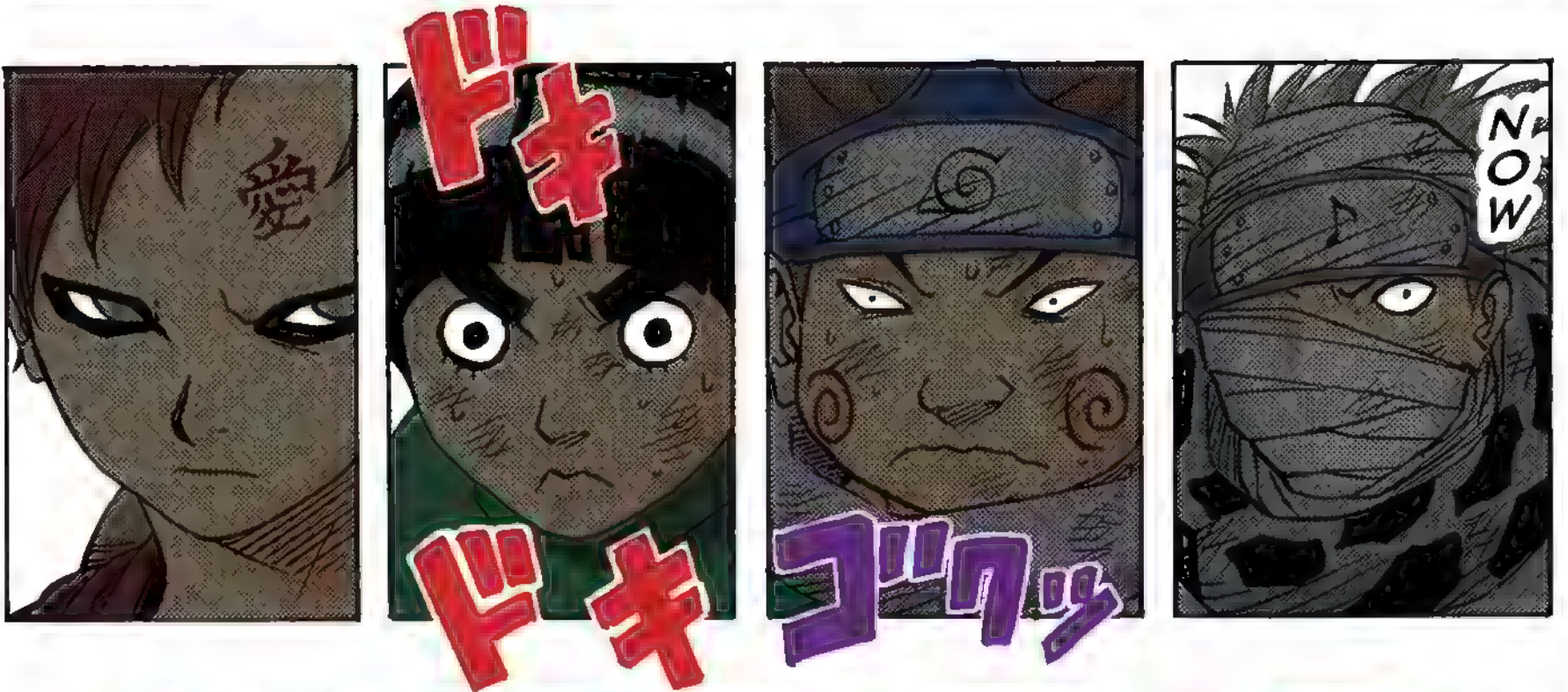
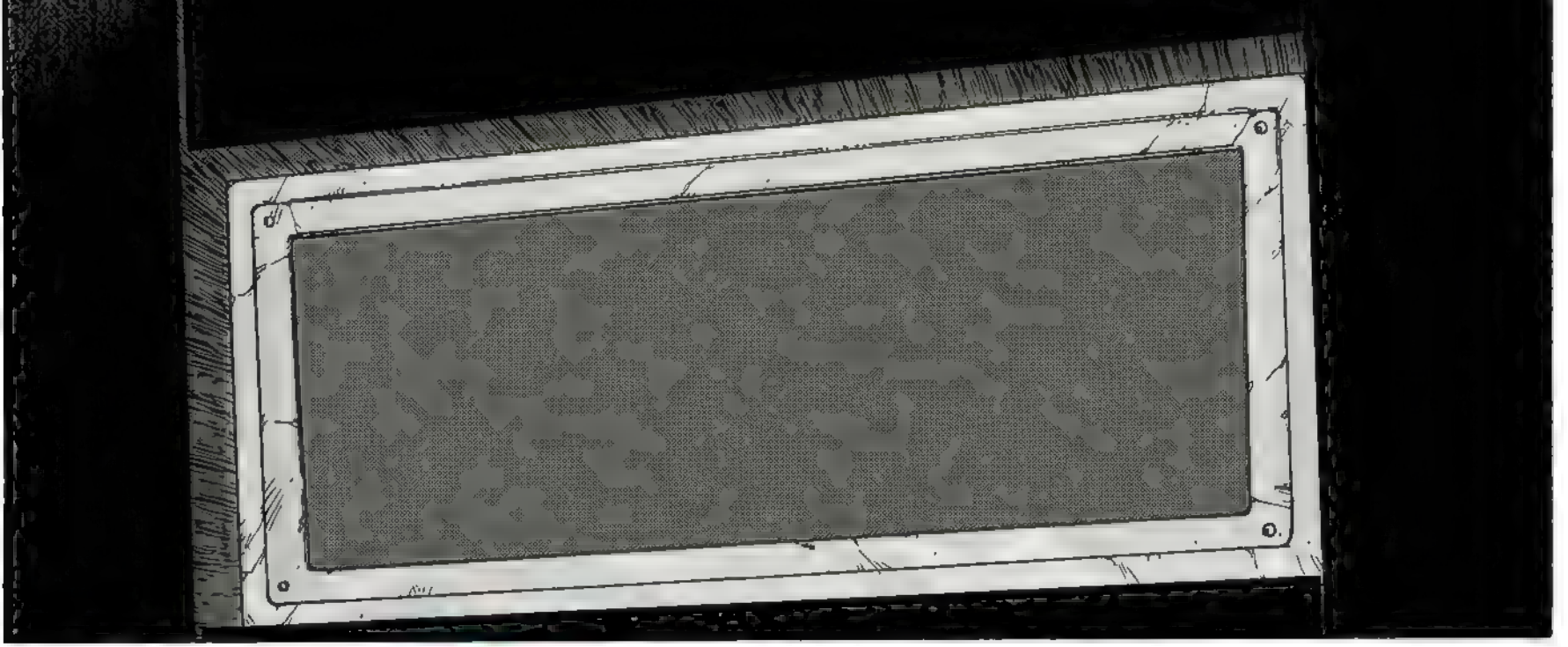






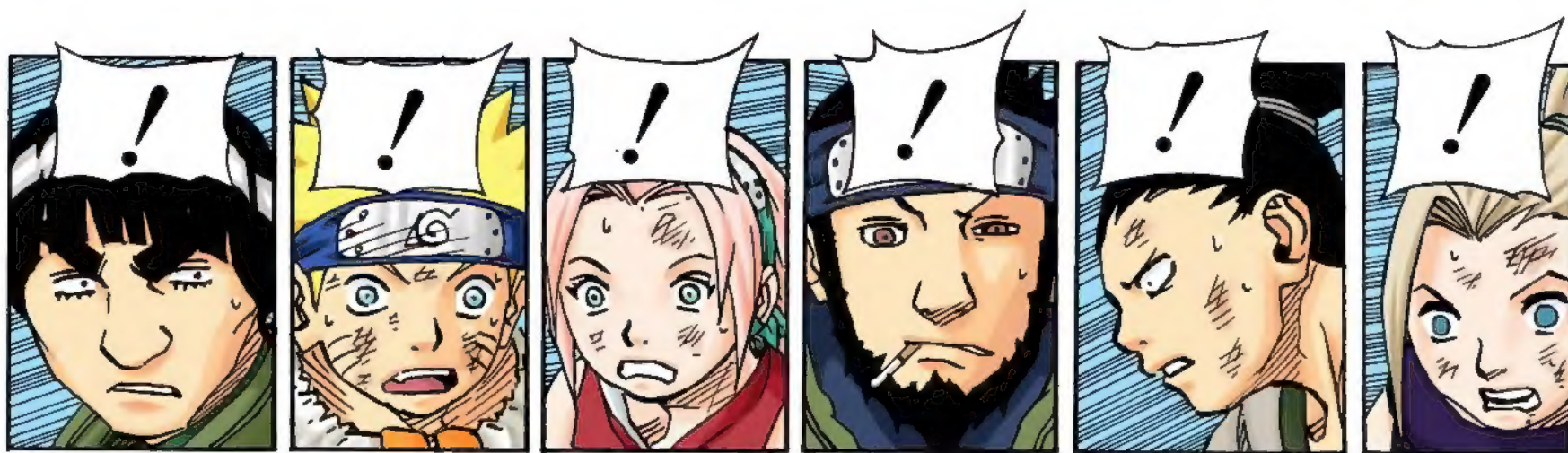








DON'T
KEEP
ME
WAITING.



SO IT'S LEE ...

